



Greek military cemeteries are preserved and maintained in Dojran region

Over the last days many there has been an interest in the reports about the grave of general Kliment Dzherov in the Crna River bend. One of the most frequently asked questions is whether Bulgarian military monuments are in the same poor condition. Reports show that the Greek WWI cemeteries are in a very good condition in comparison with the Bulgarian ones, which are dilapidated, overgrown with grass and hold traces of treasure hunters. According to different sources Bulgarian cemeteries in the region of Dojran vary between 7 and 12. The place of some of them are known – near the village of Furka (where the headquarters of general Vazov was situated), in Star Dojran (on the way to the ruined church Saint Elijah, near the Ferdinand Fountain), and others.

It is worth noting that a Bulgarian gravestone was built into the memorial of the Greek military cemeteries. Despite the lime covering, bravery cross is still noticeable. In the region of the Dojran Lake, on Greek territory, there is an English military cemetery where more than 100,000 Englishmen who died in the WWI are buried. There are Irish, French and Serbian military cemeteries in the region of Dojran. Dojran is a frontline in the battles between the Second Balkan War and World War I.

Asian tiger mosquitoes arrive in the capital

An aggressive breed of mosquito, which can carry potentially deadly viruses, has been spotted in the capital, according to scientists who have pressed the government to take action to curb the spread of the insect.

The Asian tiger mosquito – a native of Asia, Africa and South America that has yellow stripes on a black body – can carry West Nile virus and dengue fever, which can both provoke fatal illnesses. A team of experts from Athens's Benakio Institute of Phytopathology and the Agricultural University of Athens have called for a "comprehensive approach to solving the mosquito problem in our country to avert serious public health issues."

Though the Asian tiger mosquito was spotted in Thesprotia and Corfu in 2004, no action has been taken to eradicate it. It is thought the mosquitoes reached Greece via ferries arriving at the busy port of Igoumenitsa.

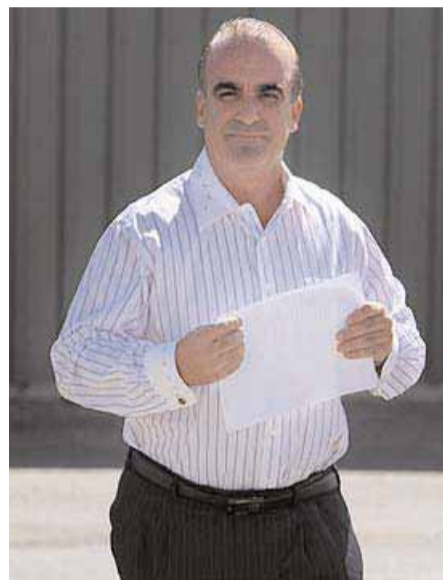
Ploubidis deserves a fair go

MY enduring memory of the SAJC is the embarrassment, as a young, anonymous footballer, of being denied entry to the Members' stand. The image of stultifying snobbishness has never left me.

Of course the racing industry has changed. Like all forms of sport and entertainment, it has to appeal to a much younger, trendy market. That image, unfortunately, does not sit well with those who want to reside and luxuriate in the "good old days". It could very well be that this is the nub of the whole devastating dispute at Morphettville.

There is no doubt that the current chief executive of the SAJC, Steve Ploubidis, who has been asked to resign his position by the board of Thoroughbred Racing South Australia, has attempted to bring the SAJC into the 21st century and attract a vibrant, contemporary crowd to its events. Indeed, the marketing campaigns of the SAJC have been acknowledged world-wide within the racing communities as some of the best.

There is also no doubt that his Greek heritage and his sometimes aggressive combative leadership style is at odds with a traditional white, Anglo-Saxon, Protestant establishment. It would be too simplistic to say that this devastating controversy is based on any pre-conceived racial discrimination, but one does wonder.



I don't know Ploubidis well, more just in passing, but every time I have met him and heard him speak publicly on the many controversies that have beset the racing industry in this state, he has been a most impressive advocate for his organisation.

However, he finds himself under serious attack after a 12-week investigation into the affairs of the SAJC by a well-respected legal firm, Lipman Karas. The final report of that investigation recommends, among other things, that Ploubidis, and the board of the SAJC, resign immediately.

Unfortunately, no one appears willing to tell Ploubidis the reasons why he should make such a drastic career move.

By all means keep the report confidential and shielded from the public, but at least tell the man what he has

been accused of. Even the most heinous criminal is accorded that privilege.

As of midday yesterday, Ploubidis had still not seen the report that recommends his dismissal, let alone know the reasons why his head must roll.

The report arrives at its conclusions after collecting a number of testimonies from interested parties.

These testimonies are not sworn and may be highly subjective. They may be presented by parties with vested interests or prejudices to feed. Indeed, some testimony may only depend on hearsay and innuendo, although experienced investigators would be able to see through any fabrications.

The key figure, the whistle-blower, if you like, to emerge in this affair is Bill Spear, a notable and respected chartered accountant, a committee member who raised serious concerns about the integrity of the club's board elections. However, Spear's objectivity has been questioned by another committee member, Alistair McFarlane. Ploubidis himself has no doubt that Spear has wanted his resignation from the moment he was elected to the committee.

McFarlane went farther when he said that Spear had been supported by ex-board members who had made "horrendous allegations" over a period of five years, but after investigation of such rumours, "no matter how ridiculous", nothing had ever turned up. There will be no happy ending to this affair.

It's ugly already and Ploubidis's kids have to endure the daily taunts, saying their parents won't be able to keep them at their school. We all know kids can be cruel; sometimes they reflect their parents' prejudices, and at other times they see the truth with a simplistic clarity. Despite the allegations of much more serious indiscretions, Ploubidis may be guilty of nothing more than innovative membership drives and progressive marketing campaigns in keeping with his charter to attract a younger membership. But how would we know?

The actions of this kangaroo court does nothing to dispel the long-held view that the racing is preserved for an exclusive, privileged, snobbish few.

Article from Adelaidenow

National Archaeological Museum opens new wing

Celebrating its 120th anniversary, the National Archaeological Museum of Greece has opened a new wing to its collection adding five more permanent exhibits to what is the largest collection of ancient Greek and Roman antiquities in the world. 2,000 new artifacts are now open to the public, with an additional set of Cypriot antiquities to be brought to light soon.



The new exhibits are divided into the following five sections: Hellenistic pottery; terracottas; the Vlasto-Serpieri Collection; gold jewelry and silver vessels; and glass vessels. The artifacts came from all over the Hellenistic world. Be sure to check out the new wing.