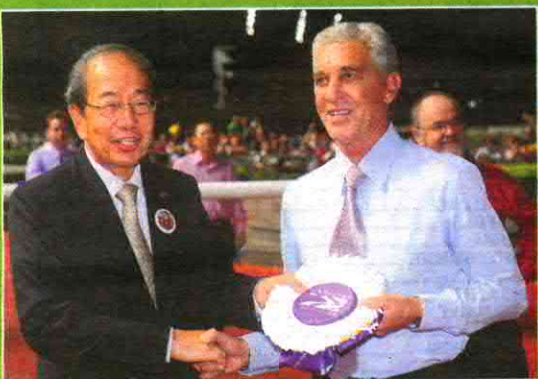




Rocket man

The Afterburners scorched the earth upon that World Cup night
'Houston there's no problem', came the call
The race was over long before the post loomed into sight
His run was meteoric from the stalls
The Rocket Man lit up the place and all toiled in his wake
They never had a chance to strike a blow
A starlit desert sky rejoiced; for him and racing's sake
The Sprinting Crown was safe around mid-show
It's not about the money, it's not about the bet
He's more than just a number now and no-one should forget
So when they ask you years from hence, who was that horse you saw
Speak proudly of the Rocket Man who won for Singapore

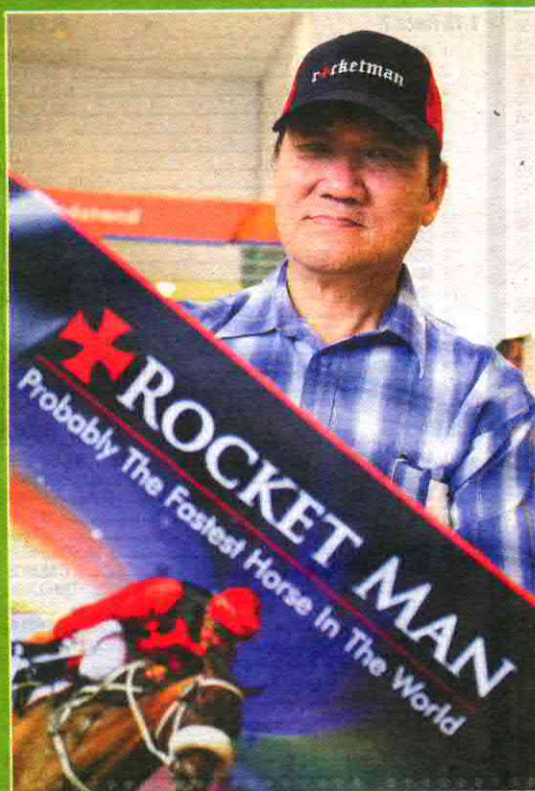
— Henry F Birtles, a racing poet from the UK who has written poems on various major races worldwide.



ROCKET MAN'S PARADE: Clockwise from above — Assistant trainer Ricardo Le Grange feeding Rocket Man with a carrot; Rocket Man being led to the grandstand; racegoer Anthony Jang wearing a Rocket Man cap and holding a Rocket Man poster; racegoers queueing up for Rocket Man mementos; Rocket Man's owner Alfredo Crabbia receiving a framed photograph of his champion's Dubai win from Singapore Turf Club chairman Tan Guong Ching and Tan handing the winning banner to trainer Patrick Shaw.



TNP PICTURES: GARY GOH



"He did our country proud. He let people from other countries know about Singapore racing. Although I did not bet on of his wins as the odds were too short, I always cheered him to win. He is our Singapore champion."

— Veteran racegoer Anthony Jang, 55, in Mandarin.