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OCCASION:
Freddy Lee with
trainer Leblela
Dragon after his
horse Rapido
Star won on
March 13 last
year.

THE PICTURE: QUAY
GSM

Star (Race 9), will be scratched tomorrow as a mark of respect.

William Tay, 48, the racing manager for both horses, called Lee a great man.

He said: "He treated everyone equally. I've never seen such a nice man in my life. He had time for you, whether you are rich or poor."

"Our group of racing kakis will miss him in our weekly Tuesday lunch. We would talk about how the horses ran over the weekend."

I also had the privilege of attending Lee's lunch a couple of times.

Indeed, he was an amazing person, capable of pulling everyone together for a nice chat.

To me, he was the ever-smiling, fit-and-poised gentleman even when he was stricken with prostate cancer.

He called me occasionally to discuss horses'

form and, when he attended the races during the big meetings at Kranji, he would always come over and sit with me for a few races.

I enjoyed his company, his stories and, yes, his wisdom. He really made me feel very much at ease, so much so that I could put my arm around him when we talked.

I will miss him, too.

Until today, I cannot forget that nasi lemak lunch he gave me and a few other racing friends at his Coronation Road West bungalow about two years ago.

It was the best nasi lemak in the world. The coconut-milk rice was very flavourful and the 10 dishes, especially the orangy curry fish, were out of this world. I am very honoured to have tasted the dishes made from his mother's recipes.

Thank you, Uncle Freddy. May you rest in peace.