

115

Marinaresco's new Merit Rating following his close second to Legal Eagle in the Green Point Stakes. His pre-race rating there had been MR 110 vs Legal Eagle's 120. The two are likely to meet in the 2000m Gr1 Sun Met with the Eagle carrying 60kg vs. 59.5kg for his opponent. In the ante-post betting for the Sun Met from Hollywood the favourite is Marinaresco at 2/1, with Legal Eagle 22/10, Bela-Bela and It's My Turn at 12/1, and 16/1 bar. But first, of course, we'll have the l'Ormarins Queen's Plate over 1600m, which is at weight-for-age three weeks before the Sun Met.

Marcus: Luck Or Master Stroke?

The split times for the Cape Fillies Guineas are enlightening. Hand timed, the 1600m race went in 100.04s. It began as fast as the Green Point Stakes, then pacemaker She's A Giver slowed things up around the turn. That was just where Anton Marcus made his move from behind on Just Sensual, going wide. Just Sensual had been 3rd last of the fifteen entering the bend, but was sixth on the heels of Safe Harbour (in 5th) coming off the bend. Marcus may not quite have realised what went on when he made his move, but tactically it was a master stroke - else he'd been left with too much to do in the sprint home.

THE SPLITS:

1600m	Bend	ent str	finish	ent strt/finish
MR83 F&M	27.24	65.40	101.44	36.04
Green Point S.	24.18	61.06	96.75	35.69
Fillies Guineas	24.24	64.21	99.84	35.63

Vaal Newbie

Zimbabwe's 2015/16 Champion Trainer Gokhan Terzi has been allocated 40 stables at the Vaal from January 2017. He will be downsizing his Zimbabwe operation from 80 horses to 25, and that may eventually close depending on the economy North of the Limpop. His first load for the Vaal hit the road on 14 December, and the balance of the initial 25 will depart a fortnight later.

NO LUCK



"It was a long way to go to have it end like that" - a frustrated Ashburton trainer Duncan Howells' chirp to journalist Andrew Harrison after dreadful luck for his top racer Dawn Calling in Saturday's Cape Fillies Guineas. Piere Strydom, battling a slipped saddle on Final Judgement, was all over the track and Dawn Calling never got to finish her race.

World's Best

British jockey Ryan Moore has won the title of 2016 Longines World's Best Jockey for the second time in three years. Moore won eight of the world's Top 100 Group or Grade 1 races to claim the title, and his victories came in 5 different countries aboard 6 different horses. The awarding of the Longines World's Best Jockey is based upon performances in the 100 highest-rated Group 1 and Grade 1 races as established for the year by the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings Committee.



Max in Mauritius

Frenchman Maxime Guyon was crowned champion jockey for the 2016 Mauritius International Jockeys' weekend. He scored 44 points, 18 points ahead of Australian James Winks, who won a tie-break against India's Pradeep Chouhan. Australia's Mark Zahra finished in 4th with 22 points, with our own new Mauritius champ Donovan Mansour 5th on 21 points. Swazi born Sena Levey finished on 2 points.

The Good Book

The contacts of 7000 owners, trainers, breeders, agents, administrators and commercial enterprises in the SA and International Racing & Breeding Industry, can be found in the 31st SA Turf Directory. An indispensable item, the pocket-sized 'Racing Bible' has been published by John Freeman since 1985. Enquiries at info@saturfdirectory.co.za



Justice For All?

Trainer Lindsey Smith has gone into bat for jockey Douglas Whyte following his 'questionable ride' on Kingston Town Classic runner-up Scales Of Justice at Ascot on Saturday. Whyte pleaded not guilty to a charge under AR.137(b) for failing to ride his mount out to the end of the race, when going down by 0.05L to Stratum Star. Smith said on Monday he believed his horse would not have won regardless if Whyte had whipped him another time before the line. "I just can't believe it's blown out this way." Smith added that they were 'trying to lynch the bloke'. The horse pulled up lame post-race.



PLEASE DON'T SHARE

The dangers of too much information on social media! "He's potentially the best two-year-old I've ever had, now we've just got to see whether he puts it together on race day." That was the comment by Cosmic Star's trainer Trevor Sutherland that was shared on a Facebook page with 21 000 members. The money came in floods in what was dubbed a monster plunge by punters at Canberra last week. Cosmic Star is still running.