



## Favourites Fail

Between 1996 and 2016, 5 out of 21 favourites won (London News, Dynasty, Eyeofthetiger, Pocket Power, Igugu), one came second, and one third.

That means that 15 out of 22 (there were joint favourites in 2007) failed to make the frame. Having July favourites as roving banker clearly is not a good idea.

## TO OWN A Runner...

A rule of thumb for owners with stars in their eyes – even if your trainer suggests you have a classic horse on your hands and to just be

patient! The raw stats suggest that if your pride and joy hasn't won by the fourth start, he is probably not going to run in the July one day. Of the 18 runners and 1 reserve on Saturday, 3 won on debut, 7 won second time out, 4 won at third time of asking, and 5 won at their fourth start. And remember, we are talking about a 2200m handicap...

## Four Play

Anton Marcus, Piere Strydom and Anthony Delpuch at 4 winners each share 50% of the July winner's sashes over the past 24 years between them. Strydom (It's My Turn) is the 'form' jockey amongst the illustrious trio, having won it in 2012 and 2016.

## CAN HE WIN SOME?

Dean Kannemeyer is the winningmost July trainer in the class of 2017. He goes for his fourth win with Mr Winsome – a Silvano gelding – as was his 2015 winner, Power King.

## Age Is A Number



Tilbury Fort was born on 7 November 2013 and is the youngest runner in the race. He shares his birthday with a guy who kicks a ball a bit - Rio Ferdinand. The old man of the race is Master Sabina, who was born on 25 October 2009 – and shares his birthday with Katy Perry. Only five 7yo's have scored in 120 years! Lyle Hewitson (French Navy) and Piere Strydom (It's My Turn) are the two age extremes in the July jockey class of 2017.

## Back 2 Back

If Callan Murray gets 2016 July winner The Conglomerate home first on Saturday, the Australian-bred gelding will become a member of the elite back to-back winner's club. Current members are Campanajo (1897/98), Corriecrian (1907/1908), Milesia Pride (1949/50) and El Picha (1999/2000).

## BEST OF BREED

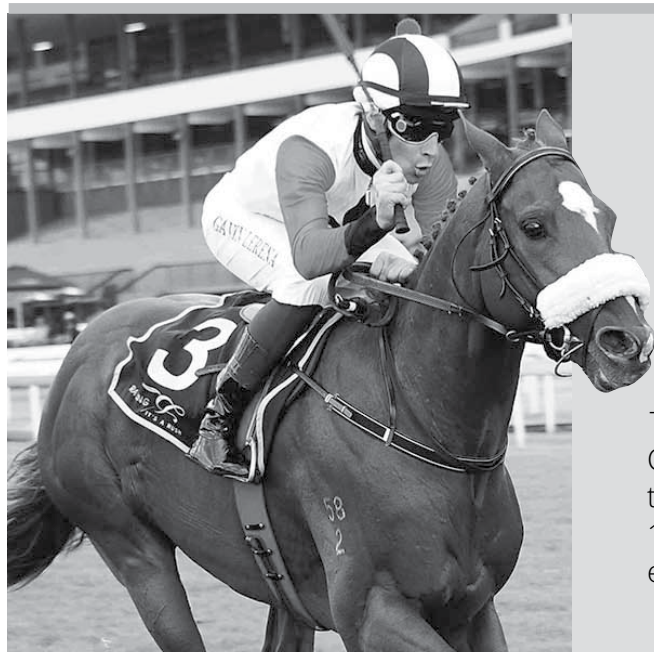
Sandown Stud's James Armitage (French Navy & Tilbury Fort) and Mauritzfontein - Wilgerbosdrift (Marinaresco, Nightingale & reserve runner, Nebula) are the breeders with more than one runner in the July. The Oppenheimer family's winners this century include Dynasty (2003), Greys Inn (2004) and Hunting Tower (2007). The Armitage family have bred outstanding July runners over the years, including Gatecrasher and Sun Tonic.

## Weight and See

Marinaresco carries 60kgs, while Safe Harbour carries 52kgs on Saturday. The lightest weight of 38,5kgs was carried to victory by Nymagee in 1904 and Margin in 1916. The heaviest weight of 66kgs was carried to victory by Campanajo in 1898.

## Size Counts

Only 18 runners can start on Saturday. The maximum field size was increased in 2003 to 20, but the Polytrack has made things tighter in recent years. The biggest July field was 33 in 1917, while the smallest fields were in 1897 and 1908, when only 7 horses ran. Would Saftote be so keen to pay six places in that case?



## Go Wide...

Australian-bred Brazuca runs from the widest gate. The 2016 winner The Conglomerate became the eighth horse since 1917 to win from the extreme outside.

## UP DOWN UNDER



Australian-bred horses have won the July three times this century, the latest last year. Brazuca, The Conglomerate and Ten Gun Salute represent the Aussie attack in 2017. Wylie Hall lost the race in the boardroom in 2014.