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October 3-5

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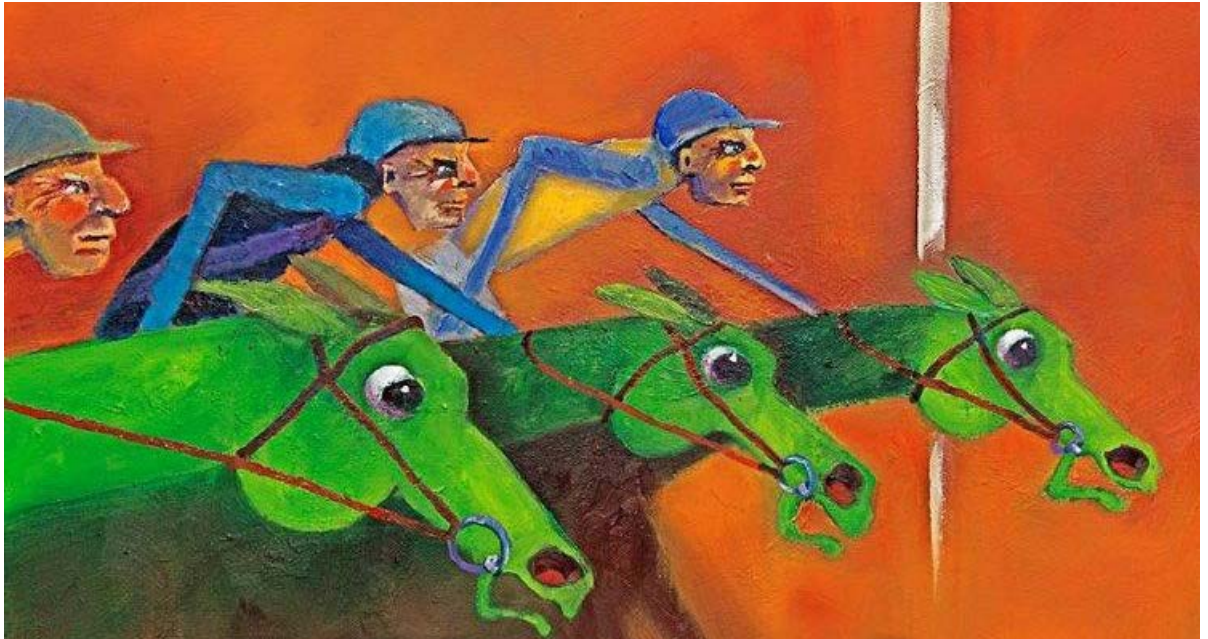
RACING

THIS WEEKEND

FAIRVIEW poly Friday
Best Roving Banker:
R5-(1) Morethanthat (12/10)

TURFFONTEIN Saturday
Best Roving Banker:
R4-(1) Save The Rhino (6/10)

SCOTTSVILLE Sunday
Best Roving Banker:
R5-(1) Lloyd's Legacy (2/1)



Where's The Merit?

Susan McConnell

You may have
missed...

Saturday 09 September
Turffontein - race 4
Sporting Post
Best Handicapped
Silken
WON 7/1 ☺

It has been labelled the root of all evil, the major contributor to dwindling betting turnovers and the catalyst for the owner exodus in horseracing.

No it's not sports betting and casino's, or even horseracing's leadership that is being referred to, but that well chewed bone we call the merit rating system.

By measuring what is regarded as normal form, and expressing it in a figure, horses can be matched against each other and the playing field be levelled. The measure the handicapper uses is weight. Each horse has a Merit Rating, an assessment of the ability shown on the track.

Simple. So why is it not working?

Veteran trainer Mike Azzie's pre-race chirp about the handicappers punishing young horses which was published on the SP website a few weeks ago

has ignited the inevitable – we'd like to call it healthy – debate on the merits of a system used internationally. The SA system is lumbered with restrictive rules – which are bizarrely in direct conflict with the definition of a handicap in the National Horseracing's Authority's own rules!

Trainer Louis Goosen is an experienced horseman and a thinker - also a man dead against the system.

"The hapless owner, after spending many years in patience and heaps of money donating runners to

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WHERE'S THE MERIT?

make up turnovers, finally finds a good one - and then is forced to skip a few wins because his horse must be 'equalised' by the handicapper," says Goosen.

He goes on to suggest that the punter leaves the track broke, week in and week out, 'because Merit Rating makes a minefield out of punting'. He says the old-fashioned 'good thing' is a rarity these days.

He believes that the goal of Merit Ratings was to help the weaker horses have more of a career. "What we have evolved it into is one that rewards the weak and punishes achievers," he says.

He sides with his colleague Mike Azzie. "We will have to pull them up, without the aid of the jockey, in order to get the ratings dropped. In our strings, we will have to separate our horses into two groups - the tryers and the non tryers. First timers must be so badly underdone that it takes a good few runs before winning. That is what the merit rating system rewards!"

That's scary!

Goosen acknowledges that such manipulation destroys the very core of racing by hurting 'the only two groups of people who sustain the Sport of Kings, and the free lunches and the gravy planes'.

Racing enthusiast and owner-breeder Tony Mincione takes issue with the Goose's opinion asking how a system helps the weaker horse without 'punishing' the better horses by costing them wins?

"This is a zero sum game so you can't do one without the other," says Mincione, who adds that punters have no say and that trainers guide the owners - so the trainers are the interest group to ultimately bring about change and improvement.

He continues by indicating that upon examining system changes, one realizes that it's not the MR system fault, but the program, or the types of races offered, that requires fixing.

"There is a finite number of races and a winner for each by the end of the season. How you program will determine who wins more or less than before you meddled."

He quotes that last year 5,200 horses competed in 3850 races for R400 million. If every horse won 1 race, then 1,300 (25%) would not have won. On average there is R103k available to win per race, and horses won 77k each.

Mincione goes on to suggest that in his opinion, there are several ways to go about solving the problem

1. Insert compulsory Novice/Graduation/Progress Plates between Maiden races and handicaps. Then one enters the handicap system as a 2x winner rather than a 1x winner. 'The system' begins to resemble the previous race figure system where handicappers had to be pretty smart.
2. Load the stake money with the higher rated handicaps. Weaker horses would, or could, still win their greater share, but they would not be able to earn like the better horses. Again like the previous system.
3. Benchmark Maiden races and just not have handicaps at a lower level than maidens. You would need then to offer an alternative to a handicap as well, and the incentive would have to be to take money away from low rated handicaps and pay those in the plated races.
4. 'Band' handicaps as they do in Hong Kong. Horses are promoted and demoted to the different bands of handicaps, similar to C, B and A divisions. One avoids the 'unfairness' of horses giving

away major weights. This is different in principle to either of our systems.

He says the handicappers have a purest view on handicapping.

"The exceptions and qualifications that people often point at to prove that merit ratings can sometimes be illogical, is the product of a panel of trainers; and that merit rating handicapping brings horses much closer together than other systems. The July is a good example, even with conditions and odd qualifying races."

He quotes stats that show that last season 3 horses won more than 5 races. Among the 5x winners were: William Longsword, Whisky Baron, Edict Of Nantes & Just Sensual.

"You need to escape the handicaps to win a few. 26 Horses won R1 million or more, they won 83 races between them (average 3.2)."

"While most of your races are handicaps, and the prize money is about the same as conditions races, then why would most of your runners want to take on the good horses?" he asks.

He closes by contending that it's as clear as daylight you have to 'punish' the handicaps, one way or another, to swing the wins and money back to the stronger horses.

Merit in that?

Pride And The Pinnacle

Pinnacle Stakes Turffontein

In an ideal world we would enjoy world-class horseracing every weekend. The national programme doesn't work like that though and we look to a good quality R130 000 Pinnacle Stakes on the Turffontein inside track on Saturday to provide the fireworks again.

The presence of the dual Argentinian Gr1 winner Hat Puntano adds plenty of interest to a competitive thirteen horse line-up over the tricky 1450m.

Mike de Kock's lightly tried Elusive Quality entire Toro Rosso is a course and distance winner and has plenty in his favour with Anthony Delpech up from a pole position draw over his favourite distance. He should be fighting fit after two prep runs and could add to his five win haul from his seventeen starts.

Chilli Con Carne has drawn right alongside the De Kock runner and is another who could be dangerous at best. This pacy son

of Just As Well may have found the 1160m on the short side last time and he will relish this test with a galloping weight.

START 3:50PM TURFFONTEIN	7	PA5/PICK SIX/JACKPOT3 PINNACLE STAKES - 1450M SAME TRAINER:(3-6-8)(5-7)	
Hat Trick	1	HAT PUNTANO(MG & AA Azzie) P Strydom	11 61.5
Ideal World	2	IRISH PRIDE(JAJ v Vuuren) M Khan	7 58.5
Kahal	3	ROMANY PRINCE(OA Ferraris) M Yeni	4 58.5
Ideal World	4	AMAZING STRIKE(AG Laird) R Simons	5 57.0
Seventh Rock	5	DONNY G(SG Tarry) L Hewitson	12 55.5
Silvano	6	SHUKAMISA(OA Ferraris) K De Melo	10 54.0
Silvano	7	COUNT TASSILO(SG Tarry) S Khumalo	13 54.0
Mogok	8	CASHIN(OA Ferraris) C Zackey	9 54.0
Elusive Quality	9	TORO ROSSO(MF de Kock) A Delpech	1 54.0
Just As Well	10	CHILI CON CARNE(M Houdalakis) K Zechner	2 54.0
Mogok	11	FRONT RANK(T Zackey) M Thackeray	8 54.0
Brave Tin Soldier	12	HIDDEN AGENDA(SW Kenny) G Wrogemann	6 54.0
Century Stand	13	TANDAVA(GG Terzi) J Penny	3 52.5

The full cards for Weekend Racing with ratings & tips can be purchased [here](#)

TURFFONTEIN SATURDAY

The 2016 Grand Heritage winner Irish Pride is a high quality son of Ideal World and has his first start of the new term on Saturday. He had excuses at his last two starts in KZN and his earlier home form shows him to be a decent galloper at best. The inside track will test him but he has the multiple champion Mark Khan in the saddle and looks a big runner – even after a seven week break.

Romany Prince has his first run in 11 weeks and is likely to need it – and a bit more ground to show his best.

Donny G has drawn wide and has not been at his best for some time – his last win being over a year ago.

Amazing Strike is yet another quality son of Ideal World. The Alec Laird 6yo must have a decent shout at his best.

Shukamisa has drawn wide but the son of Silvano just doesn't know how to run a poor race. This progressive 4yo is a dangerous sort if allowed to gallop freely and is a must for bigger permutations.

Tyrone Zackey's Front Rank will have to improve on his recent form but had his first outing in seven months when showing some pace and fading to 6 lengths behind the improved again Kilrain last time.

Second of the Sean Tarry duo, the smart course-and-distance winning 5yo Count Tassilo has drawn widest of the lot but is bang in form and capable of making it a hat-trick of wins. His respiratory noises at his last three runs do not appear to have hindered him but are a cause for concern.

Cashin is the third of the Ferraris trio. The son of Mogok has some ground to make up at the weights.

At this stage of his career, Hidden Agenda is likely to be more comfortable over a bit further.

Tandava led most of the way to win an MR84 Handicap at Turffontein on Tuesday. If he runs here, he rates a threat again.

Hat Puntano comes in probably needing a good blowout – but read more about this interesting fellow alongside.

In an open race, we feel that Irish Pride could get there late to hold the likes of Count Tassilo and Toro Rosso – with Chilli Con Carne the danger.

The Cat in the Hat?

Robin Bruss is our profile personality of the week (see page 8) and he was the man who brokered the purchase of the Mike Azzie-trained Argentinian-bred Hat Puntano, who carries top weight in Saturday's Turffontein top-liner.

Imported to South Africa from Argentina in November 2016 and a one-time Vodacom Durban July entry, the dual Gr1 winner has only his fifth career start on Saturday. He is by Hat Trick out of the Bernstein mare, Stormy Pursuer.

Racing in the interests of Las Monjitas, Hat Puntano was trained by Carlos D Etchechoury for his first two starts and then transferred to Juan J Etchechoury for the balance of his career in Argentina.

Hat Puntano broke his maiden by 16 lengths on debut, beating a 13 horse field over 1400m on the San Isidro turf on 30 April 2016. His second start was in the Gr1 Gran Premio Gran Criterium, a race for 3yo colts and geldings over a mile, where he exhibited an impressive turn of foot to come from last to win by 2 lengths in a time of 1 min 34.66.

After changing stables to Juan Etchechoury, he ran in the Gr1 Gran Premio Estrellas, a mile contest on dirt at Palermo on 25 June 2016. He didn't appear to act on the surface, and finished 6th. His final start in Argentina was on 30 July 2016, in the G1 Gran Premio Clasico Dos Mil Guineas (Argentine 2000 Guineas) on turf in which he disposed of the 8 horse field to romp home by 5 lengths. It was an impressive performance and good enough to prompt his purchase as a possible 2017 Triple Crown candidate.

Robin Bruss told the Sporting Post that Hat Puntano's style of racing is very exciting. "His sire, Hat Trick, is a champion miler by the legendary Sunday Silence and a horse I happen to know very well. Hat Trick is a dual Gr1 winner and broke the track record for a mile when he won the 2005 Gr1 Kyoto Mile Championship of Japan in a time of 1:32.10. The record still stands."

He races off a rating of 113. A National Horseracing Authority official confirmed to the Sporting Post that Hat Puntano raced off a similar rating in his home country and this rating was thus adopted here.

Grand Heritage Countdown

Trainer Johan Janse van Vuuren made a major impact when winning the inaugural running of the R750 000 Grand Heritage just under a year ago with Irish Pride. On the afternoon he saddled four winners, with his winning rider Gavin Lerena bagging five firsts.

Van Vuuren's name does not appear next to any one of the 70 entries listed for the 2017 renewal of South Africa's most populated race, which will be run at the Vaal on 30 September – but there is still time. Supplementary entries close Monday, 18 September.

In order to be considered for inclusion in the final field, every horse nominated must have had at least a minimum of one run from time of first Entry up to and including the time of Final Supplementary Entry. So we are bound to see a few entrants having a run this week.

The bright idea of creating a 1475m straight-course charge for a massive field of 28 mid-handicappers, across a wide range of weights – offering all owners and trainers a tilt at a decent stake (R750 000) and attracting big betting pools and handsome payouts – proved quite an innovation in an environment where betting turnovers are under serious pressure.

Stakes are paid all the way down to fifteenth position.

While 27 ran in 2016, a field of 28 runners (with two reserves) is likely to face the starter at the end of this month.

Most of the local trainers have nominated runners including Champion Trainer Sean Tarry, Mike de Kock Mike and Adam Azzie, Geoff Woodruff and Paul Peter, but trainers from other centres have also entered runners.

Duncan Howells, the new Champion Trainer in KwaZulu-Natal, has entered Secret Captain and Gingerbread Man, while Geoff Woodruff has nominated Fellow Traveller. Port Elizabeth-based Dorrie Sham has entered Classify, who ran an excellent trial in the Gr3 Spring Spree Stakes last week in his first start in Gauteng. He will be well acclimatized come 30 September.

[Read more](#)

DYNASTY

RANKED 5TH IN THE WORLD AS A SIRE OF GR 1 WINNERS 2017.



STALLION	WINNERS-RUNNERS	WINS	RUNS
Galileo	6-28 21%	13	76
Medaglia d'Oro	5-13 38%	6	22
Scat Daddy	5-14 36%	5	23
Snitzel	5-19 26%	5	33
Dynasty	4-17 31%	5	26



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GOODMAN JUDGEMENT

Brett & The Baron

After his best season ever last term, big things are happening for Phillippi trainer Brett Crawford. He follows in the footsteps of colleagues Dean Kannemeyer and Candice Bass-Robinson in opening a permanent satellite yard at Summerveld.



Brett Crawford

Gold Circle have allocated Crawford 30 boxes from 1 October. He will be partnered by Peter Muscutt, who will take responsibility for the Durban operation.

Further afield, Crawford's 2017 Sun Met winner Whisky Baron is set to make his European debut in the Gr2 Shadwell Joel Stakes at Newmarket's Rowley Mile Racecourse on Friday 29th September.

This £100,000 one mile contest has attracted an initial entry of 34 horses, featuring no less than 19 Pattern Race winners.

"Whisky Baron is doing exceptionally well and, although he has the option of waiting for the Challenge Stakes [another Group 2 event run at Newmarket's Rowley Mile Racecourse on 13th October], the way he is going at the moment I am confident that he will make the Shadwell Joel Stakes as long as the ground is not too soft," said Crawford.

"He spent three months in Mauritius, which is a nice holding facility but only has a very tight round track so all you can do there is canter. He was let down completely and we have had to start again from scratch."

"After a lot of build-up work, we have upped his work and put him under pressure over the last three weeks and he has responded really well."

"He was such a big, bulky horse that it was inevitable that we would have to have him gelded, but since he's had that done he has been unbeaten in five starts – it's helped tremendously."

"Everything is on track and he has already given us the journey of a lifetime but fitness will obviously be an issue for him and he has also never raced up a hill before."

"He's a very versatile horse, his biggest asset is that he has a fantastic turn of foot, and though his first big overseas target is the Hong Kong International Races in December, I'm not sure if he will go for the mile race there or step up to a mile and a quarter," he concluded.

Bet On It!

Betting on international racing is big business for South African punters. But how familiar is the average man-in-the-tote with the rules that govern players?

Like, what happens to carry-overs? And did you know that the first-timer rules do not apply to Pick 6 pools on international races?

Don't be one out every time- know where you stand! Take ten minutes and [click here](#) to read the latest TAB International Operational Policy

Hewitson Bounces Back

South African champion apprentice Lyle Hewitson, who was unseated from his mount Cover Page in the starting stalls at Fairview on Friday and underwent a mandatory 48 hour suspension, bounced back quickly with a winning double at Turffontein on Tuesday.

Yvette Bremner, trainer of Cover Page who was subsequently withdrawn, told the Sporting Post that Lyle had received a Voltaren injection for the pain and the only visible injury had been a cut lip.

Fairview has been a happy hunting ground in terms of winners for the talented young rider, but he has not always enjoyed the best of luck there in terms of spills.

On 28 April the Avontuur-sponsored jockey was fortunate to escape serious injury when Samish Bay stumbled and fell at the track. On 13 May he suffered a broken collar bone and mild concussion following a fall from Gitano Giant at the same course, but was back in the saddle in late June, in a miraculously speedy return to riding.

But Hewitson showed his fighting spirit, winning at only his second ride back. He steered Snow Boarding to victory for Tony Nassif in the Turffontein second race. He rounded off the day, winning on Dragoon at value odds for Clinton Binda.



Lyle Hewitson

Old School

Another man in the wars was senior jockey, Gunter Wrogemann. After winning the first at Turffontein last Thursday, Wrogemann was injured while riding Goede Hoop in the second race. His mount threw her head back as the gates were released, hitting him in the face and cutting his nose. He lost his right stirrup iron in the incident, then the left at the 700m marker so could not ride Robbie Sage's charge out to the finish. The cut needed stitches and he was stood down from the rest of the race meeting.

But he bounced back with an armchair victory on the promising Zen Arcade at Scottsville on Sunday.

Unlikely

Recent China winning jockey Sherman Brown was also hoping to be back in the saddle as early as this week, although with an injury to his right shoulder rotator cuff, those hopes seem unlikely to materialise.

Brown injured his shoulder at Scottsville a week ago when riding first-timer Royal Applause in Race 5. "The horse pulled his head down and I thought it was a sprain or a strain. So I took a Voltaren shot, which released it a bit, and rode Willowgrange in the last race that day. After that I had major pain," he admitted.

He told Tabnews late last week:

"I just don't have any range of movement in my right arm now," he said. "Can't even lift it to my waist. I went for a Sonar on Thursday, which showed no tears and I'll be having an MRI on Monday.

"But I'm hoping I'm 'miraculously healed'," he quipped, admitting he would still have the MRI.

Consultation Rules!

The National Horseracing Authority has announced the names of the members of its newly constituted Rules Committee.

The composition of this Committee reflects the NHA's vision to include as many of its role players in its regulatory decisions and is in line with its consultative approach before enforcing any changes that might have an impact on the Industry. [Click here](#) for the names of the committee members.

Kimberley Gets Stipe

The National Horseracing Authority has confirmed that David Rahilly, a member of the Central Provinces Stipendiary Board, has been appointed as the Resident Stipendiary Steward in Kimberley with immediate effect.

David has been employed by the NHA as a Stipendiary Steward for two and a half years. Prior to this he was involved in the industry as a jockey and trainer during a career spanning three decades.

Flamingo Park Racecourse in Kimberley hosts race meetings on a Monday, three times a month and there are seven trainers based at this Centre which accommodates four hundred race horses.

Furthermore due to its sand track this Centre attracts a steady flow of visiting horses. With this in mind the NHA deemed it appropriate that a full time Stipendiary Steward be based in this Northern Cape city.

Caffeine - NHA Wake Up Call

In a press release published on Wednesday 13 September, the National Horseracing Authority has noted that there have been a number of specimens taken from horses which have tested in excess of the screening limit for caffeine. Accordingly, the NHA is obligated to notify the relevant Trainers of this occurrence and afford them options as envisaged in terms of the Rules.

The NHA has undertaken an investigation in order to identify whether any commonality exists between the specimens of the affected horses being above the screening limit for caffeine. In this regard, the NHA has requested that the affected Trainers provide the NHA with information, which would allow for a more complete view of the circumstances surrounding these results, prior to any potential inquiry proceedings.

SAVE THE DATE

KZN BREEDERS AWARDS

2 December
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WATCH THIS SPACE

Hong Kong Support For SA

Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges, CEO of the record-setting and world-renowned Hong Kong Jockey Club, has given South African racing a valuable mention in his 2017 report, published recently.

The Club will be lending its high-profile support to the South African bloodstock market and will be helping with the resolution of bloodstock export protocols.

Engelbrecht-Bresges wrote: "To sustain the success of the Hong Kong Jockey Club's integrated model, and its commitment to the betterment of society, the Club must continue investing in its world-class racing product. This means we need to keep increasing prize money, both to incentivise horse owners and to maintain the attractiveness of our international races for overseas horses. To provide owners with more choice, the Club is currently supporting efforts to open up the South African market for direct export to major jurisdictions."

In the 2016/17 season, the HKJC put up another record performance, with total turnover reaching a new high of HK\$218.2 billion. Racing achieved a record turnover of HK\$117.4 billion, up 10.7% for the full season, generating gross margin, commingling and simulcast royalty income of HK\$18.3 billion, up 8.5%. Total net margin retained by the Club, plus commingling and simulcast royalty income, was up 9.3% to HK\$5.2 billion.

Engelbrecht-Bresges commented: "These results reflect the success of the Club's integrated business model and of the core values that underpin it. They are also the result of a long-term strategy, which started twenty years ago, to position Hong Kong as a centre of world-class racing. Essential to this strategy has been a significant increase in prize money, which has incentivised owners to invest in quality horses and attracted top horses from overseas to compete in Hong Kong's international races. In the same way, and also through the improving quality of racing, the Club has recruited and developed top trainers, jockeys and racing professionals."

No Retreat By SA Sponsors

The former KZN-based Argonaut gelding Beat The Retreat registered his second consecutive stakes success in Mauritius when he won the Gr1 South African Airways Cargo Princess Margaret Cup on South Africa day at the Champ de Mars on Saturday.

The one-time Alistair Gordon charge also took the Sprinters' Championship for the in-form Patrick Merven stable. With Imran Chisty on board once again, Beat The Retreat ran one-off at the back of the pack, before producing a powerful burst of acceleration when it mattered most. In second position was Prince Of Thieves (Donovan Dillon), while One Cool Dude (Brad Pengelly) did enough to get third ahead of former Bass-Robinson galloper, Ernie (Cedric Segeon).

As they do on an annual basis, the South African horseracing industry threw financial support behind the Mauritius Turf Club and sponsored the first 7 of 8 races on the Champ de Mars programme. The MTC hosted the following South African representatives this weekend: *Gold Circle*: Graeme Hawkins, Bill Lambert, Neil Butcher and Tasnim Govender. *Cape Thoroughbred Sales*: Adrian Todd. *Klawervlei Stud*: Grant Knowles, Gerhard Fourie. *SAA Cargo*: Ntuthuko Koza, Ronel Rossouw. *Racing Association*: Larry Wainstein

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PERSONALITY

Robin Bruss Circle Of Life

As the breeding season hits full throttle, it's a good time to review last season's results and there are some interesting lessons in analysing the stats. Our figures (based on breeders with 10 or more runners) reflect that Robin Bruss's Northfields Stud finished top of last season's breeders log.

About Robin

Robin has been involved with racing and breeding all his life as an owner, breeder, agent, auctioneer, journalist, television presenter, researcher, administrator and consultant and has acquitted himself admirably at all of them. Moreover, he boasts a set of racing colours that is the longest running in the country after the Oppenheimers.

Off a relatively disciplined base of 6 mares, Robin has achieved 6 Gr1 winners to date- Circle Of Life, African Lion, August Rush, Zebra Crossing, Basic Instinct and most recently, Champion's Cup winner, Deo Juvente. As only 0,1% of horses win at Gr1 level, it's a significant achievement. How has he done it?

"I've been in racing and breeding my whole life – and developed my philosophies through study, observation and experience. My father Les registered his silks 1943 as an owner/trainer, and was a founding member of Borrowdale racecourse in 1957. My brother Neil became a trainer and I invented myself as a bloodstock agent starting out in Zimbabwe."

Robin's knowledge of the Thoroughbred racing and breeding industry is encyclopaedic. He was secretary for the Zim TBA for 8 years and worked as an auctioneer in partnership with Peter Lovemore. "We compiled the National Yearling Sales catalogue for South Africa. For four years we manually created pedigrees and race records for every single horse – this taught me the development of familie."

In 1982 Robin made the move to South Africa joining the Form Organisation as a partner and was a co-producer of the first Form Stallion Register. In 1983, he moved to Johannesburg and went out on his own to operate as a consultant to Edgars Stores founder, Sydney Press.

Mentor

Sydney entrusted the young Bruss with his start up Coromandel Stud. They bought Gallantry (Plum Bold-Sun Lass), the first ever R100,000 yearling at the National Yearling Sales, who won 9 races including the Gr2 Merchants and later become a stallion. The operation hit the headlines in 1983, when they acquired the filly Tecla Bluff (Arg). Never beaten in the Press silks, she won the Gr2 Republic Day Handicap, the Gr1 Rothmans July and the Gr1 Clairwood Winter Handicap and become Horse of the Year.

Press decided there wasn't a stallion in

South Africa good enough for his filly and commissioned Robin to find one. They bought Northfields (USA). "Although already 15 years old, Coolmore allowed us to buy him for USD\$2,5million, an unprecedented figure back then. We then acquired 50 mares and I was able to start building the families I wanted. We bred Cape Guineas winner Face North in the first crop, but then Sydney became mired in a messy divorce and within 3 years the farm was dispersed."

However, Northfields left an impact on the stud book, becoming a Champion Sire of broodmares, both in South Africa and in Great Britain. His influence through his daughters is marked, numbering 64 individual Gr1 Winners to date – the latest being Champions Cup winner, Sail South.

Northfields Stud

"Sydney gave me a parting gift which represented the best of the Coromandel Farm breeding, the only daughter of Northfields and the great mare Tecla Bluff. Named Teclafields, it was disconcerting when she only won one race on the track, but she become the dam of three Gr1 winners for me – Circle of Life, who won the Garden Province Stakes and finished 3rd in the July; African Lion, who won the Champions Cup; and Zebra Crossing, who won the J&B Met."

Circle of Life is the dam of 2017 Gr1 Champions Cup winner Deo Juvente (Trippi) which Robin bred at Drakenstein Farm on a foal share, selling the R3.8m earner for R500,000 as a yearling.

Log Leader

Thanks largely to Premier's Champions Challenge hero, Deo Juvente, Northfields Stud topped the national breeders' log by AEPR with a final total of R316,516 last season. But he was not the only good horse bred from the select band of 6 mares, many of which are often mated to unfashionable stallions.

Strongman (aka Horse of Fortune in Hong Kong) (Stronghold-Sweet Virginia), sold for R150,000 and has won 6 races in Hong Kong at Class 1 and Group level, taking his earnings over R15 million this year. Will Pays (Imperial Stride – Rattlebag) was sold for R60,000 as a yearling and in achieving his 9th win in Turffontein's Gr3 Spring Spree Stakes on 2 September, took his earnings over the R800,000 mark.

Then there are the two unbeaten youngsters, now 3 year olds- Billy Silver (Silvano – Evening Attire), who won in a canter at Scottsville on 3 September and Do It Again (Twice Over – Sweet Virginia), who landed his second win on the trot at Kenilworth on 9 September. Both look destined for Graded races.



ROBIN BRUSS

Breeding For The Winning Post

Robin has a distinct view on breeding relying on what he calls probability theory. "As only 3% of all races are Graded Black Type races, you have a 97% chance of not achieving this goal. Therefore, the pressure is on to focus every means to reduce the odds of failure."

"Selection is based on performance as the breed progresses on the base of racing class. Independent studies of 50 years of results in USA and Europe came to similar conclusions. Donald Lesh in Europe found that you increase your probability of success by 800% if you breed with graded stakes winning mares. Joe Estes found that this held true in America, but stated it was closer to 1,400% greater probability. Therefore ideally, I would like to own 6 graded stakes winning mares, but one must cut ones cloth on budget, and I have found success by keeping as close to racing ability as possible, even if not particularly fashionable. However, on this basis, the rewards come at the winning post and not in the sales ring. I might yet graduate to owner-breeder status and stop selling yearlings altogether."

The Importance of Family

"The second most important characteristic is to build long term families. All the really great farms have great families they have built from generation to generation – the key is the quality of the mares. I've managed to build 3 families – of which one has died out. My first mare was Mendere which I bought when I was 17 for 1800 Guineas, then R3,600 on a loan from my Dad. I had her mated on a free service to Lombard (also the broodmare sire of Urban Sea) and she produced Chrysanthemum, my first runner. Chrysanthemum was very slow – the only real fault that a racehorse can have! But the quality emerged in the next generation. I sent her to speedster Divine King and she produced Hachiman who won 21 races of which 14 were stakes races and became Champion of Zimbabwe. I sold a stakes-winning daughter to Tony Taberer which would produce Minelli, who then produced champion sprinter Val de Ra, now the modern strain of this pedigree. Her daughter, Miss Frankel is inbred to Lombard via Frankel," he notes. "Meanwhile, the daughter I kept died without producing any winners. This game can be cruel!"

"To me the keys are racing class, understanding the characteristics and traits of names in pedigrees and then physical compatibility in matchmaking. This is also why Black Type is extremely important in the art of selection and critically important to breeders. For this reason the Graded Races panel has a considerable responsibility and I am disappointed with the recent downgradings of important races, particularly the stamina events. When racetrack executives tamper with race gradings they tamper with the breed."

Industry contributions

As an agent, Robin has travelled the world and bought and sold horses in all 5 continents. He introduced Barry Irwin and Andreas Jacobs to South African racing as well as a plethora of stallions that have had long term significant impacts for the breed.

As an industry player, Robin served as a director of the NHA for 9 years, was a member of the TBA council for 6 years, is a Trustee of the AHS Trust, was one of the founding members and first CEO of Cape Thoroughbred Sales and currently is on the SA Export Task Team. He operated Delta Bloodstock which pioneered own-

er syndicates, operated a large bloodstock insurance business, and he chaired the SA Racehorse Owners Association. He has also spoken at numerous industry conferences overseas and in the South African parliament.

"In recent times, I have cut back on my involvement in racing. I love the game, but I race infrequently in Johannesburg these days because of my disappointment with the manner in which our industry is operated and organised. Our controlling bodies have overseen a disintegration of the ethos of the sport in favour of bias of betting and this has caused a decline across the spectrum of the game. It does not portend well for the future unless there is change."

"The sport must come first because every player, and every fan and every person who derives a living in the game has a stake in it- not only those within the betting business. When you realise that the number of breeders has declined from 1,400 to 180 over the past 20 years, you realise the extent of the problem. But that's a subject for another day," he says firmly.

Exports Breakthrough On The Cards

Direct exports from South Africa to the European Union could well be back on track as early as December next year or January 2019, according to Adrian Todd, a spokesman from our horseracing industry's Import-Export Task Team.

Todd was speaking at a recent workshop attended by the most important decision-makers in the South African horseracing industry and was upbeat about the recent progress made by the team chaired by prominent owner and businessman Chris van Niekerk.

"We have been working diligently to fix the issues raised in a 2013 audit by the EU, getting expert advice domestically and internationally, and have verified we are on the right path," said Todd. "There remains work to be done before the official EU audit in the middle of next year, but we know we've made real strides in our record keeping, communication and movement control. We are on path to meet or exceed our commitments to upgrade where necessary."

Exports of South African horses have historically taken months because of an equine disease endemic to Africa called African Horse Sickness (AHS). Just like malaria is transferred through a mosquito bite, AHS is transferred by a bite from the *Culicoides* Midge.

All horses north of Cape Town have to be inoculated against AHS but cases have occurred in the AHS-control zones in the Western Cape. It has now been proven that the cases in the controlled areas were vaccine related and new controls regarding the timing of vaccinations are believed to have solved this risk.

There was an enormous breakthrough last year, though, when Prof Alan Guthrie and his colleagues at the University of Pretoria Faculty of Veterinary Science's Equine Research Centre announced they had developed a diagnostic test, known as a RT-PCR Test (polymerase chain reaction used in molecular biology to amplify a single copy or a few copies of a segment of DNA).

[Read more](#)



YAMOTO

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Debut Winner

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OVER R7-MILLION TO BE PAID OUT

The programme has been extended to include all
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of R40 000 each.

Source Of Champions

Short Heads

IVAN THE GREAT

Yellow Star Stud-based trainer Ivan van Wyk celebrated his first winner as a fully-fledged trainer at Scottsville on Sunday when the Ashley De Klerk owned Bezrin gelding Putchini scored his sixth win from 58 starts. Billy Jacobson rode a strong race to get the game 6yo home. Ivan took his licence out in May 2017. The 320ha Yellow Star Stud is situated approximately 12 km outside the village of Mooi River and boasts quality grass and sand training tracks.



CANDISE MARNEVIC

2300

Justin Snaith is a motivated man this season and he notched a hat-trick of winners at Kenilworth on Saturday, which included his 2300th career winner. Grant van Niekerk got the Highlands bred Sassy Lady out of trouble to win the seventh race. But Snaith's most impressive scorer on the afternoon has to be the Twice Over gelding Do It Again, who lived up to his name to win the last.

Point Of Order

Runaway Irish St Leger winner Order of St George has shortened dramatically for the Melbourne Cup but a decision on whether the Irish stayer travels to Australia won't be made until next Monday. Trainer Aidan O'Brien told reporters after the impressive win, which was Order of St George's second success in the race, that a decision would be made whether to target the Prix de l'arc de Triomphe or the Melbourne Cup. Order Of St George was third in the Arc last year.

Way Less

South African jockeys have to try training or even Tellytrack presenting when the weight bogey threatens. But in the UK, the jumps are a great alternative to the flat code. Former dual Irish champion apprentice Connor King is hoping to establish himself as a jumps jockey in Britain this winter after joining Brian Ellison's yard in North Yorkshire. The 21 year old King is six foot tall. He partnered 125 winners on the Flat in Ireland. He has signed up with agent Richard Hales.

Goose is Flying

Louis Goosen's Ideal World gelding Zen Arcade followed up on his BSA August Million debut runner-up spot last month with a smooth win for owner Mario Ferreira at Scottsville on Sunday to shed his maiden at his second outing. The R550k National 2yo Sale buy took his earnings to R253 125 and he looks very progressive.

VIP

It is wonderful news that direct exports from South Africa to the European Union could well be back on track as early as December next year. According to the Tabnews website, that was the word from a recent workshop attended by the 'most important decision-makers in the South African horseracing industry'. Be interesting to hear who invited who...

Diamond Diggers

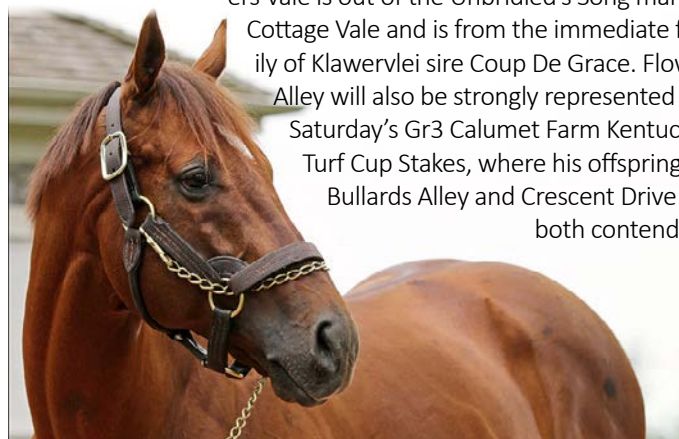
Trainer Stef Miller has made an interesting move employing PE jockeys Wayne Agrella, Donald Bogaleboile, Eldin Webber and Nic Patel as work-riders at her Kimberley yard. That's a real luxury in the Northern Cape and her yard can be watched closely.

MAGIC

The 27 year old 'Mauritian Magician' Karis Teetan has come a long way since his island pony club days where he was one of only two candidates selected from 102 hopefuls for training at the SA Jockey Academy. Karis rode his first winner on Step With Style for trainer Paul Lafferty at Scottsville in 2005 and has made a terrific start to the new Hong Kong season, where he is in second position behind Joao Moreira.

Up The Alley

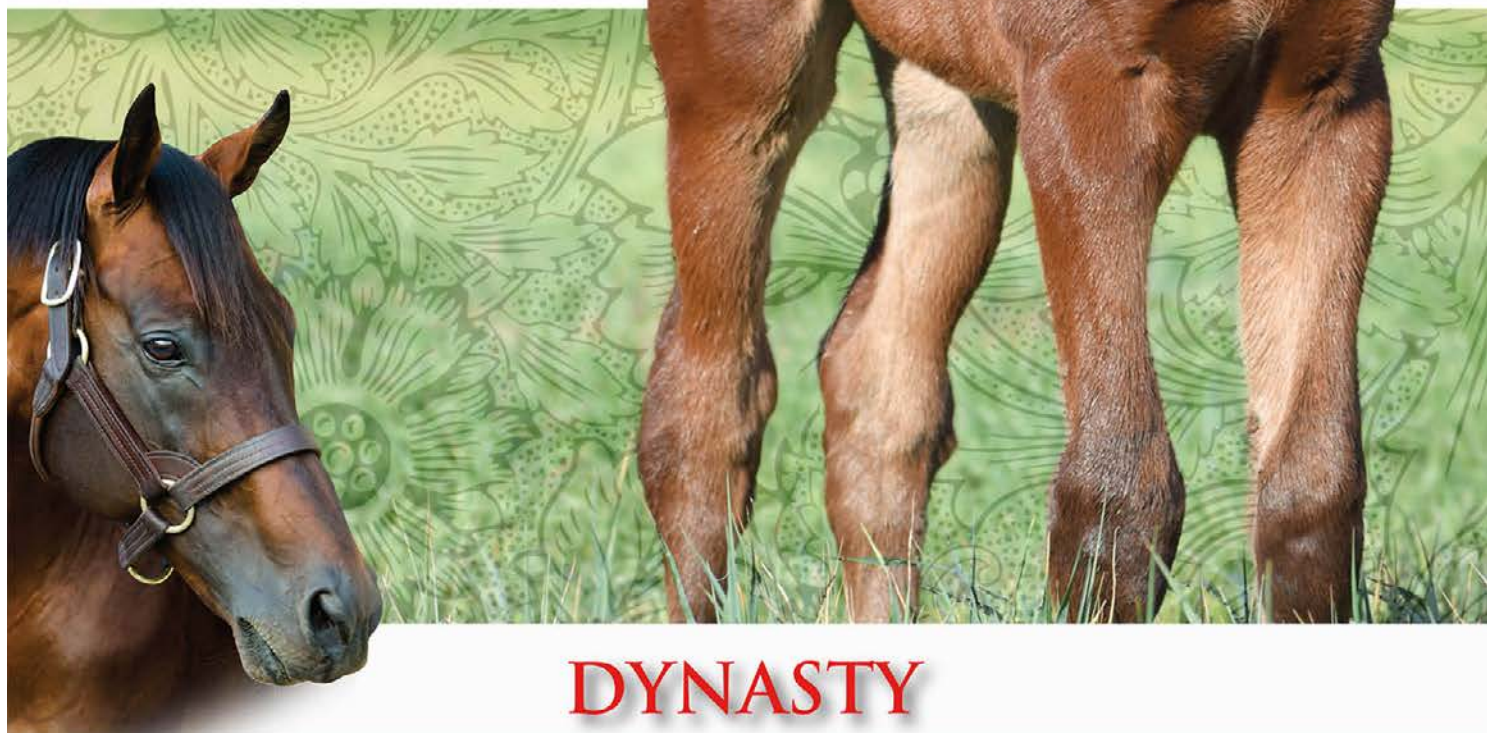
Wilgerbosdrift stallion Flower Alley sired a smart looking 2yo winner in North America on Monday. His daughter Flowers Vale won first time out at Mountaineer Casino Racetrack & Resort when scoring by an impressive seven and a half lengths over 900m. Flowers Vale is out of the Unbridled's Song mare Cottage Vale and is from the immediate family of Klawervlei sire Coup De Grace. Flower Alley will also be strongly represented in Saturday's Gr3 Calumet Farm Kentucky Turf Cup Stakes, where his offspring Bullards Alley and Crescent Drive are both contenders.



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LOUW FLYER

It's A Matter Of Trust

A Little Effort Goes A Long Way

I don't know whether it's age or whether I just have an over-developed sense of cynicism (maybe both?), but I find I'm rarely impressed these days. So imagine my surprise to be invited to public gallops of one of our Cape feature season hopefuls last Saturday.

While I like my duvet as much as the next person, if there's a promise of seeing some good horses, I will cheerfully get up as early as you like (OK, relatively cheerfully). So Saturday morning saw me hitting the road before sunrise to get to Rosmead Avenue on time for some very special grass gallops.

Glen Kotzen was sending some of his string to stretch their legs at Kenilworth, including last season's promising Gold Standard, last seen out in the Sun Met where he finished 2 ½ lengths behind Whisky Baron.

Having grabbed a pair of trainers on my way out of the house, I had plenty of opportunity to rue my choice as I tracked across the wet Kenilworth turf and the dew soaked straight through to my toes. I squelched my way to the little knot of people gathered alongside the winning post and watched the first pair of Hundreds and League Game put through their paces.

Gold Standard

Next out was the star attraction for the morning, Chrigor Stud's 2016 Selangor Cup winner Gold Standard ridden by Richard Fourie, who galloped from the 1400m mark alongside the speedy two time winner, Quickfire with Lucian Africa in the saddle. Gold Standard racked up 3 wins, 3 places and over R600,000 in earnings from his first 6 starts, prompting Drakenstein Stud to buy into him just before his tilt at the Met. A small set-back saw the colt benched for the rest of the season, but with him fully recovered and back in work – as well as the Cape season just around the corner- the stable decided to use the opportunity of giving him a grass gallop to invite the press to come and take a look.

There is just something special about an entire. They always seem to have a little extra gloss to their coats and be possessed of a bit more fire and life than their gelded counterparts. Gold Standard has been left entire and is glowing with good health and energy. The colt gave his companion a few lengths start, easily collaring him up the straight and the two put up some good work – being lightly pressed, but not going flat to the boards.

Richard Fourie, who is the retained rider for Chrigor Stud and always wonderfully approachable and forthcoming, was characteristically direct. "He's a big horse and people have been asking about him, so it's good for people

to know how he is doing." He reported that Gold Standard had done the work 'like a gentleman,' adding, "The break has made the world of difference. He's had a very nice winter and didn't have to run on the KZN tracks. His work is very positive and everything is on track, so it's all systems go."

Snapshot

While a gallop is merely a snapshot in time, albeit in this case, a snapshot showing a wonderfully happy, healthy and above all, sound prospect for the season, the stable confirmed that Gold Standard's immediate goal is the Matchem Stakes. They are hoping for a Cape summer season feature campaign, and intend following the traditional Green Point Stakes, Queen's Plate, Met route, but they cautioned that it will be a question of taking things a day at a time. Which is all one can ask for, really.

Lastly, there was a little extra treat with the last pair for the morning consisting of the very well-bred Sommersonne and Princess Vicky, a daughter of Princess Victoria by Silvano. Both unraced and still finding their feet on the grass, it was nevertheless fun to get to see two such quality fillies up close and personal. Princess Vicky is a small, compact, but racy looking individual, while the chestnut Sommersonne, a halfsister to Dennis Drier charge Sommerlied, is a taller, rangier prospect. They sprinted up the straight and it was difficult to separate the two, which is nice as I now have a host of extra horses to look out for this season. Again there was a chance to see them in the parade ring afterwards, chat to the riders and just generally digest the outing.

Colour me all shades of impressed. It was a progressive, forward thinking and refreshing gesture from Woodhill Racing, particularly when some yards are still refusing first-timer comments. Considering the yard had volunteered the opportunity rather than being pressed for it, had offered more than what was billed and were so open and transparent and happy to chat about their charges made it all the better and it got me thinking.

How The System Works

Racing exists thanks to owners who buy horses and punters

who put up their betting rand to provide the turnover which funds stakes, pays salaries and finances the upkeep of our tracks and training centres.

We know the economy is under pressure and that for Joe Bloggs (the man we count on to give us their hard-earned cash), leisure rands are scarce. Therefore customers are becoming far more discerning and have to be persuaded harder than ever to part with their money. The old adage goes that goods are



Gold Standard with Richard Fourie | HAMISH NIVEN

IT'S A MATTER OF TRUST

not sold, they are bought, so it is more important than ever for us to maintain good, transparent relationships with our remaining customers if we want them to repay us with their cold, hard cash.

To know us is to love us. It is the most basic principle of marketing. Well, the most basic principle of life. But how does anyone get to know us when we are still (largely) such a closed shop? Unfortunately this is something our local industry is still grappling to come to terms with.

Poor communication

Half the industry seems paralysed with the suspension of Formgrids. We still have no idea what – if anything – is happening with sectional timing, and while I don't mean to harp on about it, the removal of so-called 'rival' (we prefer the term 'independent') publications in betting outlets seems churlish beyond belief.

It even extends to racing results and replays. While I am eternally grateful for Tellytrack, it is incomprehensible that if I miss a race live, I have to wait several hours for the replay and result to be made available on a local racing site. However, I can access not only the result, but a choice of replays of our local races on international portals within minutes. The few broadsheets carrying racing information are generous in encouraging people to bet, but a bit short on detail when it comes to the results, often simply listing payouts with numbers rather than horse, jockey and trainer names!

Why so secretive?

There also seems an inexplicable reluctance in some quarters to share what are apparently deemed 'stable secrets'. Consider this – you would not go to the supermarket and be happy to buy unmarked cans of food which could jolly well turn out to be anything. Why then do we expect our punters to do business on that basis? I'm not asking for KFC's secret herbs and spices recipe, but it is possible to say things such as the horse is working well, is recovering from a minor set-back (extra points for naming said set-back), has had its vaccs, has an equipment change, jockey change, etc.

These are statements of fact, which can do no harm and can only aid in fostering a little trust and goodwill. Please note that no-one is asking for an OPINION on how the horse is expected to run (unless you have access to some kind of crystal ball, in which case, fire away). The idea is really rather to give the customer information and allow them to form their own opinion (which has the added benefit of making any decision on their head, rather than incurring unpleasant accusations of 'false information' after the event, helping drive our dwindling customer base even further into obscurity).

The reason this is so important – particularly now when we are all under such pressure is perhaps best illustrated with this little analogy. Grab a plate and throw it on the ground. OK, done. Did it break? Yes. Now say sorry to it. Sorry. Did it go back to the way it was before? No. Now do you understand? Trust doesn't come with a refill. Once it's gone, you are unlikely to get it back. And even if you do, it will never be the same and that's a fact.

But back to my Saturday morning outing. Although it's not the first time (the Bass and Snaith yards in particular are very good about inviting folks to look at their horses), it is certainly the first time this seems to have been done this early in the season, making it particularly, well, nice. So well done to Glen and the team. Also thanks to Kenilworth Racing for giving the go ahead. I know logistics have been extremely difficult with Durbanville out of commission and gestures like this can do nothing but build interest in the horses and season ahead as well as allow one to follow horses with a bit more confidence.

Next time I will remember to wear more sensible shoes.

NEW FOALS 2017

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Mare, sire & other details make it interesting for everyone. Add your own website address, too.

Send to kiki@sportingpost.co.za

Here's are some submitted pics

Pathfork x Right And Ready Filly 30.08.17
(Highlands Stud)



Coup De Grace x Three Blue Cranes Filly
05.08.17 (Highlands Stud)



Grey's Inn x Paradise Beach Filly 01.09.17 (Avontuur)



Duke Of Marmalade x Icy Winter Air
Colt 25.07.17 (Highlands Stud)



Oratorio x Menorah Filly 20.08.17
(Avontuur)

'Youngster' Wins Legends Race

The William Hill St Leger Festival kicked off at Doncaster on Wednesday with retired celebrities of the saddle taking centre stage in the Leger Legends, a mile charity race.

First run in 2010, the race has grown rapidly in stature with the likes of Mick Kinane and the most successful lady jockey of all time, the USA's Julie Krone, both having won the accolade. In 2015, 20 times National Hunt Champion Jockey Sir A P McCoy OBE, took the crown.

On Wednesday Northern National Hunt veteran, 44 year old Brian Harding showed he has lost little of his trademark strength in the saddle when steering Off Art to a thrilling victory.

A field of 14 former jockeys went to post for the popular contest, which has become the traditional highlight on the opening afternoon of the four-day St Leger Festival on Town Moor.

In a career spent largely as stable rider to Gordon and Nicky Richards, Harding rode over 600 winners. He only retired this year and showed his fitness with a good win on the Tim Easterby-trained Off Art who got up late to beat Fire Palace and Adrian Nicholls by half a length.

Harding said: "That was hard work but it was good fun! I ride out three or four horses every day who are breakers (being broken in) but then you come and do this? I thought, 'oh my God.' No, it was good fun really.

Harding's career highlight was a Queen Mother Champion Chase success on the popular grey One Man in 1998, while he also won the 2004 Irish Grand National aboard Granit D'Estruval.

The St Leger Festival continues today with the DFS Ladies day, one of South Yorkshire's biggest social occasions. The festival reaches a climax on Saturday when the World's oldest Classic, the St Leger Stakes will be run.

Old Man River

'The Guv' Jeff Lloyd received his second consecutive Queensland Jockey Of The Year title at the 2017 UBET Queensland Thoroughbred Awards in Brisbane on Saturday.

At the age of 54, Jeff became the oldest jockey to win the Metropolitan Premiership Jockey title for the 2015/16 season as well as being named Queensland Jockey Of The Year at the 2016 Queensland Thoroughbred Awards.

This year, he readjusted the figure for the 'Oldest Jockey' to 55, when winning both the Queensland Metropolitan Premiership Jockey title as well as being voted Queensland Jockey Of The Year for the second consecutive time at this season's Queensland Thoroughbred Awards.



Jeff Lloyd

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**BALLYMACOLL
DISPERSAL**

New Sire Off The Mark - Eightfold Path

On The Right Path

Scott Brothers' Giant's Causeway stallion Eightfold Path produced his first winner at Turffontein on Saturday when the Roy Magnier trained Brigtnumberten got off the mark at his sixth career start.



Eightfold Path | J Lewis

Ridden by Gavin Lerena, Brigtnumberten showed his characteristic speed before holding on to beat the highly regarded Hampton Court by just under two lengths in a time of 58.41 secs for the 1000m.

The winner, who had run decent places at his two previous runs, is raced by Hartley SA (Pty) Ltd and was bred by BIT Thoroughbreds out of the two-time winning Joshua Dancer mare, Summer Dew.

The icebreaker was overdue for the handsome stallion who won from 1200m to a mile. From his eight runners this season, four have placed. Last term, nine of his ten runners placed.

The only son of Storm Cat stallion Giant's Causeway at stud in South Africa, Eightfold Path is a French Gr3 (Prix Eclipse) and Listed winner and is impeccably-bred out of the 5-time Gr1 winner Divine Proportions. The latter hails from a sire producing female line, the likes of Shirley Heights and Pentire Champion Sires in their own right – with Konigstiger and Whipper also featuring prominently in sires lists in Europe.

Racing in the famous Niarchos colours, Eightfold Path was one of trainer Pascal Bary's leading hopes for the 2010 Classic season, but was injured during the build up to the French 2000 Guineas.

Eightfold Path's top priced yearling to date sold for R325 000 at the National Yearling Sale.

He stands at Scott Bro's for a fee of R10.000 this season.

On Her Honor!

The Greg Ennion-trained Weekend Warrior was Scott Bros' stallion Crusade's first Cape winner in May as a 2yo, but his daughter Wings Of Honor really caught the eye as special on debut at Kenilworth on Saturday.

Glen Kotzen's chestnut Crusade filly impressed to win her debut from Runaway Rebel by almost half a length over 1000m.

Wings Of Honor dominated most of the running, with Runaway Rebel looking to be a threat but the Kotzen galloper fought doggedly to the finish with plenty of determination.

The filly out of a Jet Master mare bred by Scott Bros, is owned by Chrigror Stud (Pty) Ltd (Nom: Mrs S Hattingh) and was purchased for R250 000 at the 2016 KZN Yearling Sale.

KZN Breeders.co.za report that Wings Of Honor has an interesting pedigree in that her broodmare's grandsire is the South African export and American sire Hawaii. The female line has produced amongst many good sorts, the sire Doulab.

Crusade's Galileo half-brother finished fourth in the Gr1 Curragh National Stakes last weekend. The full brother to dual Gr1 Oaks winner Seventh Heaven is a lightly raced juvenile named Coat Of Arms. He has placed four times from five starts for Aiden O'Brien.

Crusade is a winner of the Gr1 Middle Park Stakes and stands for a fee of R20 000 this season. To date all of his siblings are Group Winners and Group Placed.

Jolly Good

Crack Cape lightweight Richard Fourie, who rode Wings Of Honor to victory, is sponsored by the beautiful filly's owners, Chrigror Stud.

Hugo and Suzanne Hatting are leading Glen Kotzen owners and race under Chrigror Stud. These are the colours in which Fourie rode Eyes Wide Open to victory in the Gr1 Premiers Champion Stakes and Princess Peach in the Gr3 The Debutante, at Greyville at the end of last season.

Chrigror's Hugo Hattingh said that the family operation was proud and privileged to be associated with a top jockey and family man of Richard Fourie's ilk.

New CEO For CTS



Wehann Smith

In an exciting new development at Cape Thoroughbred Sales ('CTS'), Wehann Smith has been appointed CEO with immediate effect.

Smith has extensive experience in a variety of insurance industries, and has been an active participant in the South African racing industry over the last number of years.

Wehann founded Kuda Holdings ('Kuda') in 2009 – a highly successful insurance operation that swiftly grew into a prominent player within the South African bloodstock industry. After CTS' recent acquisition of a stake in Kuda, the CTS Board believes that Smith is ideally placed to extract synergies between and provide leadership to Kuda and CTS. Kuda will remain a separate company, with Smith continuing at the helm as its CEO.

"With CTS acquiring a significant stake in Kuda, an overarching focus is the streamlining of operations to the advantage of both businesses; resulting in increased benefits for clients.

[Read more here](#)

Phumelela Shareprice

date	close	high	low	volume
13Sep	1949	1949	1949	0
12Sep	1949	1949	1919	48
11Sep	1943	1943	1943	0
8Sep	1943	1943	1811	1,109
7Sep	1950	1950	1950	5,0001
6Sep	1950	1950	1850	1,198
5Sep	1949	1950	1850	1,201
4Sep	1950	1950	1775	670

SAVE THE DATE

CTS READY TO RUN SALE

Friday 17 November
Durbanville Racecourse

BREEDING

Storm Clouds Brewing

Top-class Blushing Groom sire Rahy, a half-brother to South African sire Rakeen and champion Singspiel, certainly made his mark as a broodmare sire.

The former Three Chimneys resident currently ranks as damsire of 145 stakes winners.

Putting this into perspective, daughters of Rahy have bred more black type winners than high-class broodmare sires like Quiet American (78), Distorted Humor (55), Galileo (59) and Machiavellian (100).

Among the notable performers produced by Rahy mares are the Gr1 winners Giant's Causeway, After Market, Sophisticat, Courageous Cat, Declaration Of War, Life At Ten, Alverta, Furthest Land, Rahy's Attorney, Rutherienne, and Megahertz.

It is worth noting the success that Rahy mares enjoyed when mated to Storm Cat, with that mating producing Giant's Causeway, the siblings After Market and Courageous Cat, and Gr1 Coronation Stakes winner Sophisticat.

Champion Stakes

Rahy's most influential and important daughter remains the outstanding Mariah's Storm, who ranks as the second dam of Saturday's G1 Qipco Irish Champion Stakes winner Decorated Knight and Sunday's G1 Moyglare Stud Stakes winner Happily (both by Galileo).

Now a three time Gr1 winner, Decorated Knight is out of Mariah's Storm's placed daughter Pearling (Storm Cat). The latter fetched 1.3 million guineas at the 2011 Tattersalls December Sale.

Pearling is a full-sister to two outstanding producers in the form of Giant's Causeway and You'resothrilling respectively.

Her dam's legacy continues to grow – both through the ongoing success of her son Giant's Causeway and through her daughters.

Mariah's Storm is another nod to the theory that the best racemares make the best broodmares, having won 10 of 16 outings- despite fracturing her pastern as a two-year-old. She won six graded races, with Mariah's Storm also scoring a notable success at the expense of Rahy's great daughter Serena's Song in the Gr3 Turfway



Top-class Blushing Groom sire Rahy

Breeders' Cup of 1996 and won three major stakes at Arlington Park.

It's A Bet

Like another outstanding broodmare Hasili, Mariah's Storm traces back in female line to the Heliopolis mare Itsabet.

Her triple US champion sire son, and former Horse Of The Year, Giant's Causeway is well established as Storm Cat's very best sire son, with more than 170 stakes winners to his name, including the successful sires Shamardal, Footstepsinthesand and First Samurai- sire of this weekend's stakes winning 2yo Bet She Wins.

His grandsons Lope De Vega and Justin Phillip have also made promising starts to their respective stud careers giving hope that Giant's Causeway may yet maintain the Storm Cat male line.

Giant's Causeway, sire of South African Gr1 winners Blueridge Mountain and Our Giant, is also broodmare sire of current outstanding US galloper Gun Runner (Candy Ride). The latter has won the Gr1 Stephen Foster Stakes, Gr1 Whitney Stakes and Gr1 Woodward Stakes at his last three outings and is currently a leading contender for Horse Of The Year honours. Giant's Causeway, whose South African based son Eightfold Path was represented by his first winner this weekend, has himself been represented by a pair of graded winners in North America this year.

Mariah Storm's Gr2 Cherry Hinton Stakes winning daughter You'resothrilling (Storm Cat) shows every sign of becoming at least as an important mare as her dam. She is already dam of five stakes horses (each by Galileo) including Irish 2000/2000 Guineas winner and Coolmore sire Gleneagles, Irish 1000 Guineas winner Marvel-

lous, the above mentioned Happily and Gr3 CL Weld Park Stakes winner Coolmore.

Dance On

You'resothrilling has once again made her mark in 2017 – with her son Taj Mahal finishing second in the Gr1 Secretariat Stakes and and 2yo daughter Happily landing the G3 Silver Flash Stakes prior to taking out Sunday's G1 feature.

Mariah's Storm is also responsible for the very successful Freud, sire of US Gr1 winners Giant Ryan and Franny Freud, as well as current high-class performer Sharp Azteca (he has more than 40 stakes winners to his credit), and Chilean sire Tumblebrutus.

Mariah's Storm's Storm Cat son Tiger Dance, now deceased, resided in South Africa where he produced Gr3 East Cape Derby winner Tribal Dance and Listed Perfect Promise Stakes winner Kittie Cat.

The Future Is Bright!

Highlands Stud's 2018 sire prospect Canford Cliffs was represented by a smart European stakes winner last weekend when his daughter Princess Asta picked up her third black type victory.

Winner of the 2016 Gr3 Premio Chiusura, Princess Asta romped to a three length victory in Sunday's Listed Preis des Lotto In Bayern-Bayerischer Fliegerpreis over 1300m to record her fifth career victory from just 14 outings.

Her sire Canford Cliffs has a number of smart runners representing him in 2017 including repeat Gr3 L'Ormarins Queen's Plate Oak Tree Stakes winner Al Jazi and Melbourne Cup hopeful Wall Of Fire.

Another daughter, Goodthingstake-time, runner up in the recent Gr3 Curragh Stakes, holds an entry in the Gr1 Juddmonte Cheveley Park Stakes at the end of the month.

Winner of five Gr1 races in a row, Canford Cliffs will stand his first season at Highlands, Part of Ridgemont in South Africa next year.

The Irish-bred Canford Cliffs is a son of Tagula out of Mrs Marsh and was ridden by Richard Hughes in all his races. He was trained by Richard Hannon, Sr.

SPRING TO STARDOM



**JACKSON X
FRAGRANT FILLY
FILLY BORN: 10.08.2017**



JACKSON



HIGHLANDS STUD

Part of Ridgemont

Entering The Brons Age

Breeding Winners – Gauteng Style!

While aeroplanes have always been his first passion, Netherlands born Fred Brons has set course and is flying full throttle into breeding winning racehorses.



Fred Brons

After introductions and a handshake, we sort of put our foot in it as we get the discussion rolling, asking him about his 'sideline'. He reacts with some animated conviction.

"We see breeding racehorses as a business and there is nothing more rewarding than having your hobby, passion and true grit become a way of life. So, no, it's definitely not a sideline!" he says as he explains that he runs his own aircraft Charter and Leasing company, called Fair

Aviation, including a travel agency, Journey Corp.

"I am still career building and hoping I can leave the aviation section to my two boys, Clint and Dean, while I release myself into the horse business," says the enthusiastic businessman.

Timing

But why get into breeding in this economic climate? We seem to have pressed another button!

"When must you play the breeding market? There are as many avenues as there are dead ends. Life is a walk and we can choose to walk the path or stay where you are. Life is full of opportunities and we can test them or we can avoid them. Life is a challenge and we can reach out to them, or sit on the sidewalk. Life is a risk and we can take that risk or we can hide in a safe haven. I'd like to say that what we are doing is a 'calculated risk,'" he says consideredly.

"People will tell you that breeding in Gauteng is a massive risk and the chances of success are minimal. Brilliant advice! Therefore if we are going to take a calculated risk, we best do our calculations thoroughly, and hope and pray that we can create an edge. If we are going to breed the 'traditional' way, then we will be doomed to fail. But we'd like to look at it a very differently," he says.

Into Africa

Arriving in South Africa from the Netherlands at the age of three, Fred grew up on the East Rand. He attended Rynfield Laerskool and Brandwag Hoerskool and only managed to get through school, he suggests modestly, because of his sport ability. After

matric, he completed a Technical Diploma in Electronics, a Diploma in Computer Science, a Marketing Diploma as well as a B.Com Degree. He also completed a shortened MBA through UNISA. But after all that formal education, it was a 'horse mad' girlfriend and a grey mare called Misty that stoked his interest in thoroughbreds that would eventually lead to the gates of Heversham Park Farm.

In his quest to breed the ultimate racehorse, Fred has joined forces with Advocate Nigel Riley at Heversham Park Farm in the Daleside Valley, halfway between Johannesburg and the Vaal.

A pedigree specialist of thirty years, the straight talking Hollander is determined to change perceptions that suggest it isn't possible to breed a decent horse in Gauteng. He believes the natural synergy between Advocate Riley the horseman, and his own insight into bloodlines, could be a winner.

"Advocate Nigel Riley owns the farm. He was a horseman from a very young age and became a licenced Trainer. He knows a horse inside out and can quickly see the potential of a racehorse based on conformation and temperament. And he has the knack to spot if something is not right and always has a good feeling on the medication process until a vet is available. You just cannot fault his horsemanship!" he says with obvious admiration.

Good Guidance

Fred's speciality is pedigrees, which he has developed over some 30 years. But he admits that looking at conformation and legs is not his strongest talent – but he is learning fast. "Corne Spies has been helpful. He took me with him to an auction and shared his experience from horse to horse. I really loved that and what an education, it was," he concedes.

"Advocate Riley is a strategist and acknowledging his shortcoming on bloodlines and my need to have a partner who can help build the 'ultimate' racehorse, brought us together at a meeting to see if we could start a breeding association- and we clicked from day one!"

To be continued

Next week – Heversham Park, the sires and the T-BAS system

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LEADING BREEDERS by STAKES

SEASON 2017/2018 • 1 August - 10 September 2017

Stakes	Breeder	rnr	AEPR	runs	wnr	wns	wnr/wn%	SW wnr	SW wns	SW wnr/wn%	plcs	plc/rns%	SP	top earner with stakes & % of total stakes
2,053,550	Summerhill Stud	163	12,598	268	24	27	15%	0	0	0%	67	25%	0	Pure Blonde 146,250 7%
1,834,325	Klawervlei Stud	170	10,790	252	20	20	12%	0	0	0%	73	29%	0	Guns And Roses 70,000 4%
1,392,500	Maine Chance	72	19,340	98	14	14	19%	0	0	0%	30	31%	0	Mind Your Business 200,000 14%
1,128,200	Wigerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein	67	17,908	80	12	12	19%	0	0	0%	27	34%	0	Zen Arcade 253,125 22%
1,093,475	Highlands	76	14,388	118	16	16	21%	0	0	0%	25	21%	0	Secret Star 89,975 8%
1,033,250	Moutonshoek	54	19,134	83	6	7	11%	0	0	0%	17	20%	0	Broadway Trip 625,000 60%
875,100	Hemel 'n Aarde Stud	63	13,890	99	9	10	14%	0	0	0%	31	31%	0	Dodgy lie 125,000 14%
811,725	Oldlands Stud	19	42,722	27	3	3	16%	0	0	0%	5	19%	0	Fullfillyourdream 625,000 77%
767,375	Scott Bros	73	10,512	117	7	8	10%	0	0	0%	34	29%	1	Claret Cup 91,250 12%
602,900	The Alchemy	39	15,459	67	9	9	23%	0	0	0%	14	21%	0	Tendre 91,625 15%
582,350	Drakenstein Stud	42	13,865	57	8	8	19%	0	0	0%	19	33%	0	Cuban Emerald 77,200 13%
531,600	Varsfontein Stud	43	12,363	60	7	7	16%	0	0	0%	13	22%	0	Surcharge 62,500 12%
462,850	Favour Stud	38	12,180	67	7	7	16%	0	0	0%	17	25%	0	Elevated 65,625 14%
415,000	Mauritzfontein Stud	21	19,762	38	4	4	19%	0	0	0%	16	42%	0	Wild Horizon 81,600 20%
402,100	GJ Armitage	40	10,053	64	5	5	13%	0	0	0%	18	28%	0	Art Attack 50,000 12%
380,738	Graystone Stud	28	13,598	50	5	5	18%	0	0	0%	8	16%	0	Dawn Assault 65,625 17%
374,075	Gary Player Stud	38	9,844	65	5	5	13%	0	0	0%	21	32%	0	SleepinSeattle 57,750 15%

LEADING SIREs by STAKES

SEASON 2017/2018 • 1 August - 10 September 2017

Stakes	Sire	rnr	AEPR	runs	wnr	wns	wnr/wn%	SW wnr	SW wns	SW wnr/wn%	plcs	plc/rns%	SP	top earner with stakes & % of total stakes
1,481,375	Silvano	75	19,752	104	19	20	25%	0	0	0%	30	29%	0	Silva's Bullet 153,125 10%
1,283,625	Trippi	63	20,375	86	9	9	14%	0	0	0%	25	29%	0	Broadway Trip 625,000 49%
1,111,775	Dynasty	59	18,844	74	17	17	29%	1	1	6%	14	19%	0	Harvard Crimson 93,750 8%
1,106,150	*Kahal	67	16,510	106	12	14	18%	0	0	0%	32	30%	0	Pure Blonde 146,250 13%
1,096,325	Var	98	11,187	137	10	11	10%	0	0	0%	47	34%	0	Arctic Blast 82,500 8%
940,050	*Captain Al	62	15,162	90	10	10	16%	0	0	0%	37	41%	0	Valediction 67,650 7%
818,650	*Antonius Pius	41	19,967	66	13	13	32%	0	0	0%	20	30%	0	Battle Creek 65,400 8%
809,825	Querari	42	19,282	56	7	7	17%	0	0	0%	16	29%	0	Mind Your Business 200,000 25%
737,975	Jay Peg	57	12,947	90	7	8	12%	0	0	0%	31	34%	0	Peggy's Dream 91,000 12%
669,425	Ideal World	38	17,616	55	5	5	13%	0	0	0%	18	33%	0	Zen Arcade 253,125 38%
664,400	Indigo Magic	8	83,050	13	1	1	13%	0	0	0%	2	15%	0	Fullfillyourdream 625,000 94%
652,400	*Tiger Ridge	35	18,640	60	8	9	23%	0	0	0%	19	32%	0	Truly 84,150 13%
612,425	*Rebel King	57	10,744	101	5	5	9%	0	0	0%	37	37%	1	Leia Organa 61,850 10%
598,250	Gimmetheregreenlight	53	11,288	70	8	8	15%	0	0	0%	19	27%	0	Surcharge 62,500 10%
572,150	*Sail From Seattle	49	11,677	67	9	9	18%	0	0	0%	19	28%	0	Know The Ropes 58,000 10%
557,150	Philanthropist	46	12,112	65	9	9	20%	0	0	0%	15	23%	0	Melinda's Garden 59,375 11%
534,525	Miesque's Approval	44	12,148	76	7	8	16%	0	0	0%	19	25%	1	Claret Cup 91,250 17%

LEADING SIREs of 3YO's by STAKES

SEASON 2017/2018 • 1 August - 10 September 2017

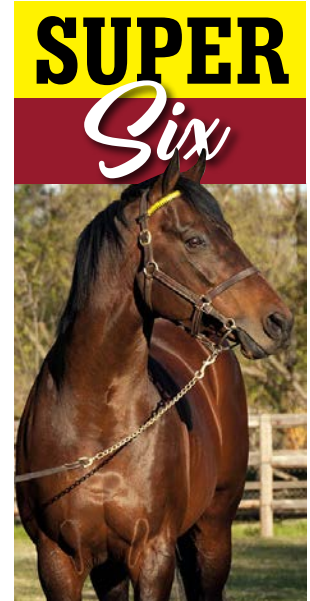
Stakes	Sire	rnr	AEPR	runs	wnr	wns	wnr/wn%	SW wnr	SW wns	SW wnr/wn%	plcs	plc/rns%	SP	top earner with stakes & % of total stakes
668,550	Trippi	12	55,713	14	1	1	8%	0	0	0%	6	43%	0	Broadway Trip 625,000 93%
645,000	Indigo Magic	3	215,000	4	1	1	33%	0	0	0%	1	25%	0	Fullfillyourdream 625,000 97%
619,500	Silvano	21	29,500	24	9	9	43%	0	0	0%	5	21%	0	Silva's Bullet 153,125 25%
578,225	*Antonius Pius	28	20,651	46	9	9	32%	0	0	0%	14	30%	0	Battle Creek 65,400 11%
468,125	Querari	17	27,537	22	3	3	18%	0	0	0%	7	32%	0	Mind Your Business 200,000 43%
392,800	Var	28	14,029	36	4	4	14%	0	0	0%	14	39%	0	Rommel 74,000 19%
378,375	Ideal World	7	54,054	8	2	2	29%	0	0	0%	3	38%	0	Zen Arcade 253,125 67%
340,025	*Sail From Seattle	28	12,144	35	5	5	18%	0	0	0%	11	31%	0	Alpine Echo 51,250 15%
338,625	Dynasty	17	19,919	17	6	6	35%	0	0	0%	1	6%	0	Greek Fire 59,375 18%
323,725	*Captain Al	18	17,985	24	4	4	22%	0	0	0%	11	46%	0	Like A Panther 59,375 18%
303,575	Judpot	25	12,143	43	3	3	12%	0	0	0%	10	23%	0	Tamarina 59,375 20%
278,025	Twice Over	22	12,638	28	4	4	18%	0	0	0%	5	18%	0	Think Twice 59,375 21%
277,400	Await The Dawn	14	19,814	24	4	4	29%	0	0	0%	5	21%	0	Big Bear 62,500 23%
274,400	Jay Peg	27	10,163	36	3	3	11%	0	0	0%	10	28%	0	Serendipity 57,000 21%
260,825	Philanthropist	24	10,868	33	4	4	17%	0	0	0%	7	21%	0	Melinda's Garden 59,375 23%

LEADING SIREs by AEPR

SEASON 2017/2018 • 1 August - 10 September 2017 ^{with 10 or more rnr}

Stakes	Sire	rnr	AEPR	runs	wnr	wns	wnr/wn%	SW wnr	SW wns	SW wnr/wn%	plcs	plc/rns%	SP	top earner with stakes & % of total stakes
440,775	Imperial Stride	12	36,731	22	5	6	42%	1	1	20%	4	18%	0	Will Pays 168,450 38%
296,525	Dan De Lago	11	26,957	17	4	4	36%	0	0	0%	4	24%	0	Tendre 91,625 31%
423,525	*Jet Master	19	22,291	27	7	7	37%	0	0	0%	6	22%	0	Stratocruiser 73,700 17%
1,283,625	Trippi	63	20,375	86	9	9	14%	0	0	0%	25	29%	0	Broadway Trip 625,000 49%
818,650	*Antonius Pius	41	19,967	66	13	13	32%	0	0	0%	20	30%	0	Battle Creek 65,400 8%
277,400	Await The Dawn	14	19,814	24	4	4	29%	0	0	0%	5	21%	0	Big Bear 62,500 23%
1,481,375	Silvano	75	19,752	104	19	20	25%	0	0	0%	30	29%	0	Silva's Bullet 153,125 10%
809,825	Querari	42	19,282	56	7	7	17%	0	0	0%	16	29%	0	Mind Your Business 200,000 25%
1,111,775	Dynasty	59	18,844	74	17	17	29%	1	1	6%	14	19%	0	Harvard Crimson 93,750 8%
652,400	*Tiger Ridge	35	18,640	60	8	9	23%	0	0	0%	19	32%	0	Truly 84,150 13%
669,425	Ideal World	38	17,616	55	5	5	13%	0	0	0%	18	33%	0	Zen Arcade 253,125 38%
310,225	*Bankable	18	17,235	29	3	3	17%	0	0	0%	12	41%	0	Bankable Teddy 72,500 23%
1,106,150	*Kahal	67	16,510	106	12	14	18%	0	0	0%	32	30%	0	Pure Blonde 146,250 13%
276,675	*Bezrin	17	16,275	30	4	4	24%	0	0	0%	12	40%	0	Roy's Yevahn 53,125 19%
306,275	*Fort Wood	19	16,120	23	3	3	16%	0	0	0%	9	39%	1	Wild Horizon 81,600 27%

The FULL Statistics ONLINE <http://www.sportingpost.co.za/horse-racing-statistics/> *Stallion dead or Retired **Stallion Not Standing in RSA
 **Breeding operations not based in RSA - Statistics for Breeders & Sires reflect ALL earnings, incl. restricted races & handicap races



Silvano (Lomitas) produced six local winners on a super Saturday – four at Turffontein and a double at Kenilworth.

The Silvano versatility is demonstrated in the mixed profile of his winners – from sprints to staying races – and with both sexes!

The Silvano Turffontein four-timer included daughter Sylvan On Fire, who made it a 3rd win from 5 outings for owner-breeder Vanessa Harrison. She is bred on the same Silvano/Jet Master cross as Derby winner Silvano's Jet. Another daughter, Silken, scored her third win over a mile. Silken is bred on the successful Silvano/Al Mufti cross – as was Vacquero, who won over 1800m.

His double at Kenilworth on Saturday saw sons Sabbatical win over 1200m, while the improving Silver de Lange won his maiden over 1900m.

Silvano is the sire of 72 stakes winners, of which 20 are Gr1 winners.



HIGHLANDS STUD
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LEADING TRAINERS by STAKES

SEASON 2017/2018 • 1 August - 10 September 2017

trainer	rides	wins	win %	fav	fav %	wfav %	2nd %	2nd %	1st four	1st four%	stakes	stks/rides
J Snaith	134	20	15%	28	21%	32%	18	13%	66	49%	1,551,575	11,579
AG Laird	44	7	16%	9	20%	56%	3	7%	22	50%	1,144,075	26,002
MG & AA Azzie	69	9	13%	19	28%	16%	13	19%	32	46%	1,010,675	14,647
AC Greeff	105	12	11%	17	16%	24%	14	13%	48	46%	893,350	8,508
DC Howells	65	8	12%	10	15%	40%	8	12%	31	48%	883,550	13,593
PA Peter	66	12	18%	12	18%	25%	3	5%	29	44%	799,200	12,109
DA Sham	77	12	16%	5	6%	60%	9	12%	32	42%	760,025	9,870
DR Drier	66	10	15%	13	20%	46%	6	9%	30	45%	747,100	11,320
GD Smith	134	7	5%	9	7%	33%	15	11%	43	32%	746,025	5,567
J Ramsden	42	10	24%	6	14%	83%	5	12%	22	52%	680,725	16,208
MF De Kock	51	8	16%	17	33%	35%	4	8%	23	45%	670,525	13,148
R Hill	14	1	7%	0	0%	0%	1	7%	4	29%	650,625	46,473
Y Bremner	90	10	11%	13	14%	23%	5	6%	35	39%	642,250	7,136
SG Tarry	61	6	10%	8	13%	25%	7	11%	24	39%	574,625	9,420
C Lensley	85	10	12%	16	19%	13%	9	11%	41	48%	566,975	6,670
GM Alexander	52	6	12%	4	8%	75%	8	15%	22	42%	547,225	10,524
KG Naidoo	78	6	8%	7	9%	29%	7	9%	27	35%	530,300	6,799
SD Gray	58	6	10%	5	9%	20%	4	7%	20	34%	514,488	8,870
T Laing	57	6	11%	6	11%	17%	7	12%	28	49%	493,200	8,653
LW Goosen	23	3	13%	5	22%	20%	6	26%	12	52%	472,625	20,549
C Bass-Robinson	65	5	8%	14	22%	29%	9	14%	24	37%	467,500	7,192
RR Magner	56	4	7%	6	11%	0%	8	14%	27	48%	464,100	8,288
ST Pettigrew	24	5	21%	5	21%	40%	4	17%	16	67%	437,900	18,246
G v Zyl	22	7	32%	7	32%	29%	5	23%	14	64%	436,950	19,861
M Houdalakis	47	5	11%	6	13%	17%	5	11%	19	40%	423,300	9,006
GV Woodruff	30	5	17%	8	27%	38%	5	17%	14	47%	421,475	14,049

LEADING JOCKEYS by WINS

SEASON 2017/2018 • 1 August - 10 September 2017

jockey	rides	wins	win %	fav	fav %	wfav %	2nd %	2nd %	1st four	1st four%	stakes	stks/rides
C Zackey	143	19	13%	22	15%	14%	11	8%	62	43%	1,430,963	10,007
C Murray	136	17	13%	25	18%	32%	16	12%	53	39%	1,294,250	9,517
A Domeyer	76	16	21%	29	38%	38%	12	16%	46	61%	1,082,250	14,240
L Hewitson	121	16	13%	24	20%	33%	12	10%	52	43%	1,186,225	9,804
K De Melo	127	14	11%	19	15%	32%	19	15%	59	46%	1,480,925	11,661
G Wrogemann	78	14	18%	8	10%	38%	9	12%	42	54%	1,176,900	15,088
G Lerena	45	12	27%	25	56%	32%	12	27%	30	67%	886,775	19,706
A Marcus	47	12	26%	23	49%	35%	7	15%	31	66%	871,225	18,537
M Yeni	92	12	13%	18	20%	22%	12	13%	44	48%	926,625	10,072
G v Niekerk	55	12	22%	12	22%	33%	11	20%	38	69%	896,400	16,298
M Thackeray	120	12	10%	3	3%	33%	7	6%	46	38%	714,825	5,957
A Delpech	60	11	18%	24	40%	33%	14	23%	34	57%	1,040,550	17,343
R Fourie	66	10	15%	14	21%	36%	11	17%	35	53%	830,775	12,588
L Mxothwa	43	9	21%	1	2%	100%	2	5%	21	49%	552,200	12,842
R Munger	155	9	6%	1	1%	100%	10	6%	47	30%	776,125	5,007
G Cheyne	51	8	16%	8	16%	13%	12	24%	33	65%	619,300	12,143
W Kennedy	74	8	11%	14	19%	14%	12	16%	38	51%	734,275	9,923
M v Rensburg	100	8	8%	10	10%	30%	13	13%	44	44%	847,775	8,478
K Zechner	103	8	8%	11	11%	9%	11	11%	48	47%	813,975	7,903
A Arries	45	8	18%	3	7%	67%	1	2%	20	44%	503,000	11,178
S Khumalo	52	7	13%	9	17%	44%	8	15%	26	50%	603,750	11,611
C Maujean	121	7	6%	2	2%	0%	8	7%	30	25%	635,200	5,250
S Moodley	56	7	13%	3	5%	33%	2	4%	20	36%	462,900	8,266
R Danielson	67	6	9%	2	3%	50%	3	4%	25	37%	441,375	6,588
Wei Marwing	60	6	10%	7	12%	0%	8	13%	30	50%	669,450	11,158
R Simons	41	6	15%	9	22%	44%	5	12%	24	59%	1,131,250	27,591

**Billy's No Kid**

KZN jockey Billy Jacobson doesn't get a lot of rides but booted home his second winner of the season on Putchini for Ivan Van Wyk at Scottsville on Sunday. The 36 year old Billy got into racing through his Dad, Alan, an owner. A talented part-time handyman, he has ridden in Dubai, Qatar, France, Spain and Mauritius. His great love is family – his pet dislike is the complete lack of loyalty in horseracing.

The underrated Billy Jacobson takes every chance with both hands

**Wonder Water Works!**

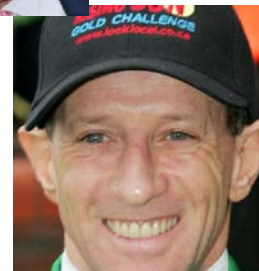
The older one gets, the tougher it is to uproot and move. Hats off this week to fifty-something trainer Louis Goosen who recently relocated from the Vaal to Ashburton in pursuit of boosting his loyal owner's prospects. His late Dad, Danie, was a successful jockey until his weight got to him. He went on to become a multiple champion trainer in the Eastern Cape. The man who can sell ice in winter, has trained some good horses and his two KZN winners in five days will get the ball rolling.

Louis Goosen attributes his yard's – and his own – great shape to Wonder Water

**Cape's In Shape**

When Anton Marcus flies into his old hometown to ride a few for Milnerton kingpin Joey Ramsden, it's usually a case of 'how much and how far?' At Kenilworth on Saturday the pair

Joey Ramsden and Anton Marcus are two of the best of their respective professions



maintained their blue-chip strike rate with two smart looking winners in True Words and Rommel. With big names over the years like

Variety Club, Red Ray and Act Of War, to mention a few, the combination is a lethal one – and the Cape summer season lies ahead!

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SIGNPOSTS

2nd season sires - 3yo's

AWAIT THE DAWN (Giant's Causeway)

Await The Day 3f (Full Term by Lecture)

[Fairview 8 MR 60 Handicap \(F&M\)\(Polytrack\) 1200m \(15/09\)](#)

Before Noon 3c (Maritime Mist by Parade Leader)

[Turffontein 1 Maiden Plate \(3yo's\) 1600m \(16/09\)](#)

Until Dawn 3f (Hot Reception by Muhtafal)

[Turffontein 2 Maiden Plate \(3yo Fillies\) 1600m \(16/09\)](#)

One Dollar Massage 3f (Victory Tale by Jet Master)

[Turffontein 2 Maiden Plate \(3yo Fillies\) 1600m \(16/09\)](#)

BYWORD (Peintre Celebre)

Speak Soon 3f (Woodland Spirit by Fort Wood)

[Turffontein 2 Maiden Plate \(3yo Fillies\) 1600m \(16/09\)](#)

CRUSADE (Johannesburg)

Brave Endeavour 3c (Hermana by Qui Danzig)

[Fairview 2 Novice Plate \(Polytrack\) 1600m \(15/09\)](#)

Joking Dice 3f (Slew per Jet by Jet Master)

[Fairview 3 Maiden Plate \(F&M\)\(Polytrack\) 1600m \(15/09\)](#)

Data Link 3f (Maxine by Mogok)

[Fairview 3 Maiden Plate \(F&M\)\(Polytrack\) 1600m \(15/09\)](#)

Exquisite Eight 3f (Bejewelled Beauty by Rambo Dancer)

[Scottsville 3 Maiden Plate \(F&M\) 1000m \(17/09\)](#)

EIGHTFOLD PATH (Giant's Causeway)

Passioneight 3f (Passionate by Jallad)

[Scottsville 9 Maiden Plate \(F&M\) 1950m \(17/09\)](#)

IRISH FLAME (Dynasty)

Giovanna 3f (Raw Deal by Tiger Ridge)

[Fairview 3 Maiden Plate \(F&M\)\(Polytrack\) 1600m \(15/09\)](#)

MARCHFIELD (A P Indy)

Close To My Heart 3f (Roxie Heart by Dynasty)

[Fairview 1 Maiden Plate \(F&M\)\(Polytrack\) 1200m \(15/09\)](#)

Tundra Taita 3f (Falconry by West Man)

[Turffontein 5 MR 86 Handicap \(3yo Fillies\) 1600m \(16/09\)](#)

March Preview 3c (Notimefortea by Windrush)

[Scottsville 2 Maiden Plate 1200m \(17/09\)](#)

ORATORIO (Danehill)

Sing And Dance 3f (Boogie With Cher by Singspiel)

[Fairview 1 Maiden Plate \(F&M\)\(Polytrack\) 1200m \(15/09\)](#)

First Warrior 3c (Lamorna by Var)

[Scottsville 1 Maiden Plate 1200m \(17/09\)](#)

Sacred Flame 3c (Tinder Box by Strike Smartly)

[Scottsville 1 Maiden Plate 1200m \(17/09\)](#)

Chica Musica 3f (Chiquita by Western Winter)

[Scottsville 9 Maiden Plate \(F&M\) 1950m \(17/09\)](#)

TWICE OVER (Observatory)

Think Twice 3f (Ember Dream by Flaming Rock)

[Turffontein 5 MR 86 Handicap \(3yo Fillies\) 1600m \(16/09\)](#)

WHAT A WINTER (Western Winter)

Winter Model 3f (Sports Model by Sportsworld)

[Scottsville 3 Maiden Plate \(F&M\) 1000m \(17/09\)](#)

Notable Maiden Winners

CURVED BALL

Rated AR 77 **Seerite** (3g Damascus Charmer by Damascus Gate)

Maiden Plate Turffontein stand side (1400m) (7/9)

Freely available at 30/1 on the off Robbie Sage's charge was clearly expected to need the experience. Drawn widest of the twelve, this son of Curved Ball raced in midfield for most of the journey. He quickened in good style over the final 400m and cruised clear to score by two and a quarter after striking the front 50m from home. He could well be better than rated

IDEAL WORLD

Rated AR 83 **Zen Arcade** (3g Variety by Var)

Maiden Plate (3yo's) Scottsville (1200m) (10/9)

Not surprisingly in the red after running on stoutly to finish second to the unbeaten Broadway Trip in the BSA August Million on debut, Louis Goosen's charge was soon positioned close to the speed here. He put his head in front going through the 200m and only having to be pushed out from there onwards won very cosily by three and a quarter. He seems likely to be able to improve on his rating.

Horses To Follow

KAHAL

Rated AR 84 **Wynkelder** (4g Al Vino by Al Mufti)

MR84 Handicap Scottsville (1200m) (10/9)

Tony Rivalland's charge impressed when making a winning debut last December. After running on strongly to finish third in his next start he looked a good sort in the making, but he was comparatively a little disappointing in the two starts that followed. This time, on his return from a four month break, he again showed real potential. At the back when the race began in earnest, Wynkelder cut through the field like a knife and won going away by three. Assuming he's sound, there should be more to come

Winners Bred Abroad

Cascapedia (IRE) 4f High Chaparral- Janoubi(GB) (Dansili)

Turffontein 1800m (07/09)

Is Your Horse One To Follow?

Check the **Notable Maiden Winners & Horses for the Notebook** on this page - see how promising the Sporting Post **ability ratings (AR)** say they are.



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Ready To Run Is Back!

History has a habit of repeating itself, and in staging the Ready To Run Sale back in the KZN Midlands, the organisers are saluting not only a national institution, but also the feats of a further 18 major race-winners in 2016/17 alone.

These luminaries include Horse Of Fortune (in Hong Kong), Brave Mary, Rabada, Purple Diamond, Champagne Haze, Africa Rising, Witchcraft, Anna Pavlova, Intergalactic, The Elmo Effect, Heaps Of Fun, Comanche Brave, Easy Street, Illitshe, Wukkin' Up, Belle Rose, Purely Atomic and No Worries.

Selling racehorses at the gallop directly off the farm was pioneered by horsemen in Florida, USA, and the Ready To Run sale as we know it today was a collective embellishment by South Africans on the same theme.

The inaugural sale was held at Summerhill in 1987, where its attendees, all twenty of them, included an august audience of Gary Player, famous cricketering all-rounders Mike Proctor and Johnny Watkins and former Miss World, Penny Coelen and her husband Johnny Rey.

While the idea soon took root in various parts of the world, South Africa remained at the forefront of its innovation, and by the late 1990s the local version was already attracting an international audience, with a buying bench especially well populated by Hong Kong, Singapore and the Middle East. Through the first decade of the new century, it was one of the fastest growing sales in the world, its stature as a producer of champions and millionaires matching the best, pound-for-pound.

The withdrawal recently of Cape Thoroughbred Sales from the Gauteng auction scene left the Ready To Run without a Jo'burg champion, though followers of the Stellenbosch-based sales company's website will recall a statement earlier in the year to the effect that the Ready To Run would be reverting to its spiritual home, Summerhill.

The sale takes place at the School Of Excellence, Summerhill Stud, on Wednesday, 25 October, just 10 days before the 12th renewal of the R2.5 million Emperors Palace Ready To Run Cup.

Daddy On The Money

"He looks like he's going to be a fast horse - a very good mover," M.V.Magnier said. "It's a lot of money for a horse, but he's by a hot sire everybody wants."

"This is over the top," said vendor Anderson Farm's David Anderson. "This is my first \$1 million horse and I couldn't ask for a better home for him. I just hope he goes on and does well for the connections."

A colt by Scat Daddy brought \$1.1 million during a heated early start to Book 2 on Wednesday at the Keeneland September yearling sale.

[Read more](#)

SPORTS AND BETTING

English Premier League

Chelsea vs Arsenal | Sunday 17 September | Stamford Bridge | 14:30



Reigning champions Chelsea welcome their London rivals Arsenal to Stamford Bridge on Sunday in the standout fixture of the Premier League weekend.

The Blues have lost just once against the Gunners in their

last 11 Premier League meetings, winning seven times, while they've won their last five encounters at Stamford Bridge.

Arsenal are aiming to win at the Bridge for the first time since 2011, when a hat-trick from Robin van Persie helped Arsene Wenger's side to a 5-3 victory.

Antonio Conte's men will want revenge after the Gunners beat them in May's FA Cup Final and again in the Community Shield two months ago.

Chelsea are 8/10 for the win, with the draw at 28/10 and Arsenal at 31/10.

To catch up with Chadley Nagel previews [CLICK HERE](#)

CHELSEA

Chelsea are currently third in the Premier League table on nine points, only one adrift of joint-leaders Manchester United and Manchester City. After the shock opening day home defeat to Burnley (having two men sent off), Conte's men have turned it around with impressive wins over Tottenham, Everton and Leicester City.

Last weekend against the Foxes, Conte opted for a 3-5-2 formation instead of the usual 3-4-3 shape. With Eden Hazard now back from injury, it remains to be seen whether he will replace Pedro and act as a supporting striker to Alvaro Morata or whether Conte will revert to a 3-4-3 and drop either Cesc Fabregas or Tiemoue Bakayoko for Pedro.

ARSENAL

Arsenal come into this clash off a comfortable 3-0 victory over Bournemouth at the Emirates, courtesy of a brace from Danny Welbeck and a goal from Lacazette. That was the Gunners' second home win of the season following their thrilling 4-3 win against Leicester City on the opening day of the season. Wenger's side are currently 11th in the Premier League and will look to move higher up the table as they aim to take maximum points against Chelsea on Sunday.

Wenger has faced Conte five times already since the Italian took charge of the Chelsea last year. The Frenchman has been victorious three times, winning 3-0 at home in the Premier League, 2-1 in the FA Cup Final and earning a 5-2 penalty shoot-out win in the Community Shield after the tie finished 1-1. But his side lost to Conte's men 3-1 at Stamford Bridge last season and 3-0 in a pre-season friendly at Beijing's Bird's Nest Stadium.

PREDICTION: Chelsea (8/10)

CLOCKWATCHING WITH STEVE FURNISH

Just The Three

A REVIEW OF THE WEEK'S
BEST SPEED RATINGS

Quick Silver

Scottsville 3rd September

Five of the nine races in Pietermaritzburg on Sunday were staged over 1200m and surprisingly the quickest of these, given that just four went to post, was the novice plate won by the highly regarded BILLY SILVER. Soon nicely positioned in second, the unbeaten son of Silvano took up the running 400m out, and with a ton in hand won going away by two.

Quickest home in the two 1600m events was WILD WICKET when landing the afternoon's feature event, a MR90 Handicap. Content to race fifth of the six early on, Duncan Howells' charge ran on best of all over the final 400m and in what proved to be a real thriller he only got the better of SAINT MARCO (raced 2nd – led 250m) on the nod.

The two remaining races were both run over 1750m and stopping the clock in the fastest time amongst these was HADDINGTON in the MR66 Handicap. Always second in the betting market, Louis Goosen's charge made all. He raced two and a quarter lengths clear for most of the journey, and although that advantage was cut into at the business end of the race, he still had a length to spare at the wire.

Titbits After making all, CHAMPENOIS was eased late when winning the second division of the maiden plate for the girls over 1200m with plenty in hand by three and a half.

All The Rage

Turffontein 5 September

They raced on the old stand side track on Tuesday. Four of the afternoon's eight races were staged over 1600m and all the rage in what proved to be the fastest of these, a MR89 Handicap, was the former Cape Town campaigner KILRAIN. Confidently ridden by Callan Murray the Dynasty gelding raced fifth of the six early on. He quickened well over the final 500m and with the rest well beaten he got the better of the second favourite SHUKAMISA by a length and three quarters.

The only other distance to stage more than one race on this card was 1160m where the quickest home was MADAM SECRETARY in the MR76 Handicap. On leaving the stalls it was LA ROQUETTE who elected to make the running whilst the daughter of Tiger Ridge sat handy in fourth. She was ridden to lead shortly after

passing the 200m marker and comfortably accounted for the in-form LAST GIRL STANDING by a length and a half.

A maiden plate over 1160m had opened up proceedings and here we saw a smart performance from the newcomer YAMOTO. Always top of the boards, Sean Tarry's well-supported runner raced in midfield early on. He put his head in front at the halfway mark and asked to do no more than was necessary in the latter stages of the race, he comfortably accounted for the improving KING OF THE DELTA by two.

Titbits Racing green, WALTER SMOOTHIE quickened nicely late when getting off the mark at just the second time of asking in the maiden plate over 1600m.

Spurs Hit The Crossbar

Scottsville 6 September


Silver Cent | Gold Circle

Racing returned to Pietermaritzburg on Wednesday where very unusually there were no sprint races. 1400m took the lion's share of the events with the fastest of the four being the MR70 Handicap won by the 5yo SILVER CENT. Always available at around 14/1, the son of Bankable raced prominent throughout. He ran on strongly in the straight and in a thrilling three way finish, he got the better of the 3/1 favourite KINGS EMPIRE by a neck.

Three of the four remaining races took place over 1600m and stopping the clock in the fastest time amongst these was MOON PRINCESS in the MR74 Handicap. Soon up handy, Glen Kotzen's charge ran on strongly over the final 400m and comfortably accounted for the equally fancied LOVE LYRIC by three quarters.

Making up the eight race program was a maiden plate over 1950m and here a bit of an upset was to be had when CHILLI AFFAIR got off the mark. Freely available at 10/1 on the

**Last Week's Top Rated
SPEED RATINGS winners incl.**

Prosperity	won 16/1
Art Attack	won 10/1
Pachuco	won 5/1
Moon Princess	won 9/2
Haddington	won 37/10
Edge Of The Sun	won 2/1
Champenois	won 21/20
Lucky At Last	won 1/1

off, the well exposed 6yo was soon up handy. He was headed by the 16/1 favourite COYS (come on you spurs) 100m out, but fought back gamely below the distance to score by a neck.

Titbits The strongly fancied even money favourite LUCKY AT LAST ran on well from midfield when winning the maiden plate over 1600m.

Top speed ratings for this weekend

(Ratings shown have already been adjusted to allocated weights)

FAIRVIEW (FRI)

- Race 1: (2) Free The Wind 13
- Race 2: (4) Handsome Henry 28
- Race 3: (11) Gitango Tonight 19
- Race 4: (8) Seattle Swing 41
- Race 5: (5) Golden Crisp 45
- Race 6: (10) Le Harve 59
- Race 7: (4) Vous Et Var 87
- Race 8: (6) Sweet Pleasures 30

TURFFONTEIN (SAT)

- Race 1: (3) So Long Spring 7
- Race 2: (1) Serendipity 6
- Race 3: (5) Graf Spee 3
- Race 4: (5) Elusive Flyer 66
- Race 5: (7) All Done 35
- Race 6: (7) Jo Mambo 58
- Race 7: (9) Toro Rosso 98
- Race 8: (10) Sabre Dance 33
- Race 9: (6) Ali Bon Dubai 50

SCOTTVILLE (SUN)

- Race 1: (2) Severino 12
- Race 2: (1) Asian Star 15
- Race 3: (4) Ally Whoopee 12
- Race 4: (1) Redcarpet Captain 81
- Race 5: (6) Varbration 73
- Race 6: (1) She's A Fortress 51
- Race 7: (5) Pure Logic 64 (EW)**
- Race 8: (7) Festival Star 40
- Race 9: (9) Pharoah's Charm 16

Nap bets

* Fancied ** Strongly fancied
*** Very strongly fancied

Notebook

Horses worth following at their next few starts...

- BILLY SILVER** (D Bosch, KZN)
- BOXLEY** (A Greeff, E-Cape)
- SEERITE** (R Sage, Gauteng)
- YAMOTO** (S Tarry, Gauteng)


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CLOCKWATCHING CONT.

Finding Extra

Turffontein 7 September

The old stand side track also staged the action on Thursday where the faster of the two 1400m events on the card was the opening maiden plate won by the newcomer SEERITE. Easy to back at 30/1 on the off, Robbie Sage's poorly drawn runner raced in midfield for most of the journey. He quickened well early in the straight and flew past the 32/10 favourite HARD BALL 50m out to win going away by two and a quarter.

They also ran two races over 1000m and quickest home in these was ALPINE ECHO in the MR74 affair. The 3yo got away well when the gates opened and taken straight to the front by Matthew Thackeray attempted to make all. He was headed by the favourite PILLAROFTHEEARTH 100m from home, but fought back gamely below the distance to score by a half.

Three of the four remaining races were staged over 1160m and stopping the clock in the fastest time amongst these was MINNESOTA in the MR76 Handicap. Freely available at 14/1 on the off, the marginally in under sufferance 5yo also made the running. He too was headed at the business end of the race before rallying back late to win by a length.

Titbits The newcomer LA BASTIDE won the maiden plate for the girls over 1160m with some in hand.

The Word Was Out

Fairview 8 September

Friday's action took place on the poly track where fastest home in the three 1600m races was VALEDICTION in the MR80 Handicap. Sent off a generously priced favourite at 5/1, the Captain Al mare raced in midfield for most of the journey. She quickened well early in the short home straight and won going away after striking the front 150m from home.

The MR78 Handicap was the faster of the two 1000m races and here the Rebel King gelding ZIP LINE registered his fourth career victory. Soon up handy, Corne Spies' charge was always poised to strike. He did so close home and won well by a half from the running on ROCK ME VAR.

They also ran two races over 1400m and quickest home on my clock was REEF OF FORTUNE in the bill topping MR86 Handicap. Always handy, the easy to back Trippi gelding fought out a thrilling three way finish with the market leaders SACRED ORATION and CHINA EXPRESS, and only got the verdict by the narrowest of margins.

Titbits Sent off a strong favourite at 15/10, the newcomer BOXLEY impressed when running on stoutly from midfield to win the maiden plate over 1000m going away.

FASTEST TIMES

(Number of races run in each category shown in brackets)
* Times taken by Clockwatcher

SCOTTSVILLE 3 SEPTEMBER

Penetrometer 22 – Going Good	
Course Variant: 0,03s fast	
1200m (5) Billy Silver	68,72
1600m (2) Wild Wicket	95,38
1750m (2) Haddington	106,98

TURFFONTEIN (OLD) 5 SEPTEMBER

Penetrometer 21 – Going Good	
Course Variant: 0,76s slow	
1000m (1) Unchained Melody	58,59
1160m (2) Madam Secretary	68,57
1400m (1) Dan The Lad	86,30
1600m (4) Kilrain	98,41

SCOTTSVILLE 6 SEPTEMBER

Penetrometer 23 – Going Good	
Course Variant: 0,22s slow	
1400m (4) Silver Cent	83,41
1600m (3) Moon Princess	96,52
1950m (1) Chilli Affair	118,69

TURFFONTEIN (OLD) 7 SEPTEMBER

Penetrometer 21 – Going Good	
Course Variant: 0,84s slow	
1000m (2) Alpine Echo	57,74
1160m (3) Minnesota	67,98
1400m (2) Seerite	86,41
1800m (1) Cascapedia	114,28

FAIRVIEW (POLY) 8 SEPTEMBER

Going Standard	
Course Variant: 0,66s slow	
1000m (2) Zip Line	57,21
1200m (1) Fritz Nobis	71,19
1400m (2) Reef Of Fortune	82,65
1600m (3) Valediction	96,30

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Race 7	2,6,7
Race 8	3,6,3,16
Race 9	2,5,3,11

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