

# sportingpost

Thursday 21 December 2017 to view Sporting Post website *click here* 



**FAIRVIEW** turf Friday Best Roving Banker: R1-(2)Seattle Lily(2/1)

**GREYVILLE** <sup>poly</sup> Friday Best Roving Banker: **R3-(2) Q Behind Me (5/2)** 

**TURFFONTEIN** Saturday Best Roving Banker: R4-(1) Ensemble (5/2)

**KENILWORTH** Saturday Best Roving Banker: **R8-(1)Quick Brown Fox(5/1)** 

**SCOTTSVILLE** Sunday Best Roving Banker: **R5-(1) Dark Moon Rising (3/1)** 



Saturday 16 December Kenilworth- race 4 Sporting Post Best Handicapped Pen-Chan WON 22/1 ©



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The uncertainty surrounding the sale of the Mayfair Speculators horses has taken some of the sparkle and fun out of the Sun Met ante-post betting market. The problem is that the system allows a measure of manipulation, for want of a better word, by the connections of any of the big race entries,

We have suggested previously in these pages that our racing gods should ideally be utilising the platform offered by the ante-post betting market to hype interest and get the public talking and debating in the big race build-up.

It can be fun and scientific taking a position on a horse or two at a premium and then enjoying their progress into the big race. Saturday's Premier Trophy runner-up Last Winter was available at 16-1 last Friday and those odds have been slashed to less than half since his great run.

We have already lost the Met public gallops and if the ante-post market is to be a success then there should be transparency and trust – and also a more formalised onus on the connections to publicise their plans in instances where there is patently no chance of a horse actually running. This could come in the form of a cautionary notice.

While rumour and speculation is fun, it makes betting very uncertain. Ante-post rules are no excuse

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#### SILENT KNIGHTS

and no one wants to chase better odds and then do their money in cold blood when a horse has no intention of running.

The now long rumoured sale of the Mayfair Speculators-owned Edict Of Nantes to Hong Kong, if true, must make the classy 4yo a doubtful starter for the Sun Met in view of the Hong Kong import restrictions governing race exposure. This uncertainty has caused an immediate drift in the betting.

Impeccable source reports reaching our offices on Monday that the dual Gr1 winner had passed all veterinary and statutory requirements and will be exported to join the powerful Tony Millard yard in Hong Kong have still not yet been confirmed by anybody representing Mayfair Speculators- and our enquiries in this regard have been greeted with a brick wall and stony silence.

A call to Edict Of Nantes' trainer Brett Crawford on Monday confirmed that the Count Dubois colt had been vetted, but we were referred to Mayfair Speculators Racing Manager, Derek Brugman. Our message has not been returned.

We'd like to believe that even if Mr Brugman has nothing to tell the betting public that he would just say so-silence creates speculation. Edict Of Nantes has been tagged 'doubtful starter' by SA's leading bookmakers, Hollywood.

The old reliable 'negotiations' are at a sensitive stage' by the Mayfair Speculators Racing Manager may even add some value and at least show good faith in the broader interests of the game.

### **Closing Doors**

Jooste's resignation and the subsequent plunge in the Steinhoff share price pre-empted the news that ABSA Bank had on Tuesday applied for the liquidation of Mayfair Speculators Pty Ltd and have cancelled a R350 million overdraft. This has naturally created more nervousness for everybody involved.

The racing vehicle of the Jooste empire, Mayfair Speculators is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mayfair Holdings. The only director is Stefan Potgieter, Markus Jooste's son-in-law. Mayfair Speculators houses many of Jooste's assets, including racehorses and a 49% share in champion breeders, Klawervlei Stud.

The Liquidation hearing is to be held on Friday.

### Sun Shining On Winter

While there were clouds around Edict Of Nantes' participation in the Sun Met, Last Winter's storming late run in Saturday's Gr2 Premier Trophy has seen him installed third favourite for the big one on 28 January.

Dean Kannemeyer was not deflated by the half kilo raise in his merit rating to 107 by the official handicapper, saying that his charge was lightly raced and unexposed and said that while he respected Legal Eagle, the race would be run on turf and not on paper.

Last Winter is likely to bypass the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate and go straight into the Met.

See the Sun Met betting on page 7

#### SATURDAY RACING

### Life's A Breeze

Listed Southeaster Sprint Kenilworth

The aptly named R150 000 Listed Southeaster Sprint, will be run at Kenilworth on Saturday.



One of Cape Town's favourite speedsters looks set for a big run on Saturday. The 4yo Sergeant Hardy famously suffers from a breathing impairment courtesy of a vocal chord paralysis. But this has not stopped the son of Captain Al from winning 6 of his 14 starts and he could maintain his sire's great run with a big effort. After winning his first

Lord Balmoral | Wayne Marks

start as a 4yo in sterling fashion, Sergeant Hardy went down 3,25 lengths behind Silicone Valley in the Gr2 Cape Merchants at his last start and gets Bernard Fayd'herbe back in the saddle on Saturday,

Dennis Drier's Horse Guards comes in off a 21 week break and is likely to need the outing as the raiding horses have tended to do. The son of Horse Chestnut started his career in great style winning his first two on the trot but failed to come up to scratch in feature company. He did win his penultimate outing on the Greyville poly beating the high-class Attenborough but was injured and withdrawn from his intended first season start last month.

Andries Stevn's Power Grid takes a step up to feature class and certainly deserves the chance to show his credentials after downing SA Fillies Nursery winner Green Plains in a bruising Progress Plate duel over the Kenilworth 1200m last time. It is worth noting that Green Plains flopped at her next start though..

The slightly disappointing Australian-bred Lord Balmoral gets the blinkers on for the first time. The 2017 Listed Sophomore Sprint winner finished only 3 lengths behind Sergeant Hardy when they last clashed but is as much as 3kgs better off – and should be a lot fitter as his last run came after a four month absence.

First of the Andre Nel duo, the Var gelding Percival never really got into the race in the Cape Merchants when finishing a well beaten 5 lengths off Silicone Valley.

Rock Of Africa comes in off a victory on the Fairview polytrack at his last start. He won his penultimate start at Kenilworth beating the capable Nasty Harry in an MR 94 Handicap and looks to have the edge on Power Grid on earlier form.

The 4yo Kingston Passage is the least experienced runner in the field of nine and looks to have scope to improve further on his consistent form-line. The son of Western Winter carries a handy joint bottom-weight of 52 kgs and regular pilot Greg Cheyne may well be looking to ride him smartly from his wind exposed 1 draw.

START 4:45PM KENILWORTH	PA5/PICK SIX4/JACKPOT3 Southeaster Sprint (L) - 1100M Same Trainer:(2-6)(4-8)	The 2015 Gr2 Joburg Merchants
Western Winter	1 BRUTAL FORCE(J Ramsden) M Seidl	winner Brutal
Querari Captain Al	2 LA FAVOURARI (A Nel) D Dillon	Force carries
Star Witness	4 LORD BALMORAL(VH Marshall) M Byleveld 5 55.0	top weight as
Horse Chestnut Var	5 HORSE GUARDS(DR Drier) C Orffer	the officially
Gimmethegreenlight	7 POWER GRID(AD Steyn) R Fourie	highest rated
Seventh Rock Western Winter	8 ROCK OF AFRICA( <i>VH Marshall</i> ) A Andrews 6 52.0 9 KINGSTON PASSAGE( <i>BJ Crawford</i> ) G Cheyne 1 52.0	galloper in the

#### SATURDAY RACING

field. The 6yo son of Western Winter is an eight-time winner but has not been at his best in two runs this term.

Second of the Andre Nel runners, La Favourari is no slouch as his 7 wins from 17 starts record attests. He was not persevered with when beaten over 23 lengths behind Sergeant Hardy last time out, but that run is best ignored.

A tough puzzle to unravel.

Sergeant Hardy could bounce back to winning ways with a serious chance to Lord Balmoral and the gutsy Power Grid. Kingston Passage is an improving sort and looks the obvious danger.

### **Doctor's Orders**

Saturday's feature brings the curtain down on Cape racing for 2017 and is named after that strong, often irritatingly persistent and dry south-easterly wind that blows on the Peninsula from spring to late summer.

While the Cape's most famous doctor is undoubtedly the late Chris Barnard, who pioneered heart transplant surgery in the Mother City a half century ago- on 3 December 1967 to be precise - the south-easterly wind is called the Cape Doctor because of a local belief that it clears Cape Town of pollution and 'pestilence'.

The wind can create tactical posers for the jockeys at Kenilworth as it buffets the runners from the inside of the sprint track, and thus can particularly affect horses drawn down the inside. Thinking riders may thus be looking to gain some cover between horses or on the outside strip.

For races around the turn, the south-easter produces a head wind up the straight. Johannesburg based jockey Gavin Lerena showed no fear and rode a cracking front-running race on Milton in Saturday's Gr2 Premier Trophy- straight into the teeth of the doctor.

### **Joey Eyes Sceptre**

The first Cape feature of 2018 is the R400 000 Gr2 Cartier Sceptre Stakes to be run at Kenilworth on Friday 5 January.

Joey Ramsden's Southern Cross Stakes winner Just Sensual is one of 22 entries for the 1200m feature on day 1 of the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate Festival in the build-up to her bid to win the Klawervlei Gr1 Majorca Stakes on Met Day.

The four-year-old had been off the track for more than five months and was conceding weight to the entire field when winning the Southen Cross in a thriller.

"She is not the biggest filly so her runs are limited and you have to plan them," Ramsden told Tabnews. "The Garden Province on Durban July Day was probably a race too many but her work going into the Southern Cross was unbelievable."

She is drawn at No 13 out of 22 and while the penetrometer is still showing that the ground towards the inside is slightly faster, that advantage is rapidly disappearing as the drier weather takes over.

#### TUESDAY'S RACING

### Next Time...

Dean Kannemeyer's good-looking and highly regarded Dynasty's Boy ran on like an express train to share second cheque in the first race at Kenilworth on Tuesday. Jockey Bernard Fayd'herbe hardly showed him the whip.

Dynasty's Boy was having his first run since gelding and returned after an 8 month break following a well-supported debut on the polytrack in May, where 'everything had gone wrong.' He looks a good thing next time.



Brett Crawford

There was some irony in the defeat for Kannemeyer, as he trained the winner's dam, Silver Apples (Victory Moon) for Drakenstein Stud.

Despite missing the break, Trippi's son Bwana was quickly into stride and the Brett Crawford-trained galloper raced prominently before holding off dead-heaters Dynasty's Boy and Sea Fury in a tight finish. A smart debut!

### **Classic Sort**

Moutonshoek's successful resident sire Mambo In Seattle looks to have a potential classic contender in the form of his son Majestic Mambo, who was an eyecatching winner at the Turffontein twilight meeting on Tuesday.

Majestic Mambo made it two wins on the bounce when romping to a four length win in a Novice Handicap over 1800 metres.

Now unbeaten in two outings, Majestic Mambo had scored an effortless 5.5 length win on debut and he looks an exciting sort in the making.



Mambo In Seattle

The three-year-old colt, who is trained by Paul Peter, was bred by Moutonshoek.

Out of the Al Mufti mare Regal Classic, Majestic Mambo is bred on the same Mambo In Seattle/Al Mufti cross as graded stakes winners Desert Rhythm and Fortune Fella, as well as Listed Michaelmas Handicap winner Mr O'Neill

Mambo In Seattle, also sire of exported dual Gr1 winner Same Jurisdiction, is also responsible for Seattle Skyline, winner of the recent KZN Summer Challenge 1600 Final.



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### We Bet It Can't Carry On

In a refreshingly frank interview on the Winning Ways show last Monday, Gold Circle CEO Michel Nairac raised concerns about plummeting tote turnovers. He didn't suggest solutions to the problem but did touch on alternatives.

### But should we not be arresting the slide rather than relying so heavily on alternate income streams?

A glance at a deserted Kenilworth Racecourse on Cape Guineas Saturday, on what should be a highlight of the Cape Summer Season, suggests that alarm bells should be ringing all round. Beyond some bussed-in kids having a ball on the jumping castles, there was nobody on track.

Problem is it's no good ignoring the intruder, turning the alarm off and going back to sleep.

While there is no proven relationship between on-course attendance and betting turnover, if you are coughing and have a headache, it's probably a sign you should be taking medical advice.

Making excuses through justification like blaming economics and sports betting is not going to solve the issue. The fact is that Racing Management are staring a crisis in the face- and simply looking away and banking another salary cheque. And no doubt taking a 'well deserved' break over the festive period.

Out of interest, we contacted Saftote last Thursday to enquire about the R470 – yes R470 – Place Accumulator pool on the Deauville meeting that day. We received no answer. That's probably because they don't really have one that sounds clever.

When it comes to a crisis, we are not alone- if that makes us feel better.

#### Decline

On the subject of turnover, Bill Nader wrote in www.bloodhorse. com recently that for the seventh consecutive year, total wagering on American Thoroughbred racing will fall short of the \$11 billion mark.

He writes that most in the industry shrug this off, spinning the story of this key economic indicator into a false positive- a flat line to a downward spiral that began in 2005 when a three-year run of more than \$15 billion came to a near screeching halt.

Horse racing features some of the brightest financial minds from Wall Street as owners and trustees of its sport, making it all the more shocking how nonchalant the attitude seems to be about the one number that defines the health of the overall industry.

Betting turnover is the key driver to all stakeholders who derive a livelihood from the sport. It is the key component to investment in purses and the funding for operating and capital investment.

Every person who wants the sport to succeed- the horse owner, breeder, shareholder, track executive and employee, the stable worker, vendors, and racing fan seeking a good customer and wagering experience- are all better off if total handle is healthy. But, the seven-year flat-line trend tells us that we are not.

The easy way out is to look for reasons - always easy to find.

#### Suggestions

The major racetracks should come together and agree on a takeout reduction to stimulate wagering investment. No single racetrack or racing association can do this in isolation. There needs to be a concerted effort and a shared vision.

The prime category for takeout reduction should be in the single-race (vertical) bet types, specifically win, place, and exacta, in an effort to create churn to allow the betting rand to turn

over with greater frequency. This will create a better return to purses and to the bottom line. Over the last 10 years, there has been a steady shift from single-race to multi-race (horizontal) bet types such as Pick 3, 4, and 5, where the takeout is applied only one time and the payment to the industry (purses and tracks) is minimized as the wagering dollars can be tied up over multiple races. There is nothing wrong with multi-race bet types. Customer preference and wagering experience is the trump card and this is acknowledged and accepted.

The key is rebuilding the foundation by bringing greater liquidity and churn to the single-race pools through a strategic initiative to lower takeout as it relates to field size. Win, place, show, and exacta wagering has to become more attractive.

The major tracks can come together and agree, for example, that on field sizes of six or less, takeout on these bet types is 14%. The totalizator companies have the flexibility to do this. The burden of taking this leap of faith, this industry bet on its own future, should not rest on one track. It needs to be a shared vision.

The time has come for the brightest minds in the industry to call a timeout and huddle together for a shared and sustainable solution through a stimulus package that embraces lower takeout and greater churn on single-race, takeout sensitive bet types. Otherwise, the total sales of pari-mutuel bets on Thoroughbred racing will soon be halved when compared to the levels once enjoyed in 2002-2007. The current playbook isn't working.

### 'It's Been A Full Life'



James Goodman presented his and his partner's horses last Saturday at his stables at Summerveld for auction and won't be training horses for the first time in 42 years. The lock, stock 'n barrel sale included the kit and equipment.

"The demographics have changed and small yards are finding it increasingly tough. It's a sad day," he said.

James Goodman

#### See the sales price list here

Goodman attained his junior Transvaal colours in showjumping and eventing, played Polo with Prince Philip and was also a top point-to-point jockey in the days of the Cape Hunt & Polo Club.

He also trained many good horses.

At the age of 24 a bad persistent cough saw his father suggest he give up the weed for cigars. It was a health move that became his trademark.

He was interviewed on the popular Winning Ways show by his colleague Paul Lafferty on Monday evening. It's a fascinating insight into the man and the character of one of our most charismatic personalities.

#### Watch the interview here

There was no indication as to whether he will continue hosting the popular Winning Ways show.



### R400,000 Forus Premier Trophy G2



16 December 2017 - MILTON (CTS March Yearling Sale) and LAST WINTER (CTS Cape Premier Yearling Sale) battle out the finish of the R400,000 Forus Premier Trophy G2 over 1800m at Kenilworth.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE CONNECTIONS

#### NEXT SALE



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### **Business As Unusual**

In a time of supposed 'business as usual', but realistically shattering uncertainty for many trainers linked to the Mayfair Speculators brand, all of the estimated 350 Jooste horses-in-training are on the market, with some already sold.

The option of a dispersal auction sale has been avoided for now, with Racing Manager Derek Brugman going the route of selling the horses out of hand.

We have learnt that some trainers have been fortunate to package horses under alternate ownership to minimise the impact on their businesses but that valuations can be a contentious issue.

The fact remains that the majority of the horses are unsold and we were unable to confirm that the substantial Euro denominated off-shore shareholdings with Coolmore have been liquidated as earlier suggested.

On a positive note, leading owner Braam van Huyssteen, who has 175 horses in training, has bought dual Horse Of The Year Legal Eagle from Mayfair Speculators for an undisclosed sum.

He has brought in two partners, Brisbane-based William Henderson and Hedley McGrath, and Legal Eagle will run in Van Huyssteen's silks of dayglo yellow with purple spots.

The six-time Gr 1 winner will remain in the care of ruling champion trainer Sean Tarry, according to his new owner. Tarry's summer plans for the champ were a bid to win the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate for the third year running and then to target the Sun Met. The first part of that plan will remain unchanged, with Van Huyssteen saying: "It makes sense for him to run in the Queen's Plate." However, he added:

"But there are other avenues available to us after that. Let's get through round 1 first!"

### **Met Betting Latest**

South Africa's leading bookmakers Hollywood have Legal Eagle priced up at 3-1 favourite for the Sun Met.

3-1 Legal Eagle9-2 Edict Of Nantes (doubtful)5-1 Last Winter10-1 African Night Sky, Gold Standard

Get the full betting here

### **CTS Ready For 2018**

Cape Thoroughbred Sales (CTS) has confirmed that Markus Jooste has resigned as director, and Mayfair Speculators has commenced the process of exiting their shareholding following last week's CTS board meeting.

Wéhann Smith, Chief Executive Officer at CTS, explains that all remaining shareholders are fully committed to the company



Wehann Smith |kuda.co.za

and to the CTS Cape Premier Yearling Sale taking place in January 2018.

The CPYS draft, according to Smith, looks potentially stronger than that of any previous years, and his belief is that vendors and buyers alike can look forward to the event with great optimism.

"Our business is resilient, and our Board, which includes chairman Chris van Niekerk and Bernard Kantor, is dedicated to ensuring that operations continue as normal, and that we keep innovating and raising the bar with each sale," he says.

Smith confirms that the transition is underway and proceeding smoothly, with no impact on vendors or disruption to the Sales programme.

"While recent events concerning Mayfair Speculators have admittedly impacted the broader industry, we can assure our clients that our focus is on ensuring we continue to deliver on our commitment to presenting Sales with the professionalism and style to which our clients have become accustomed. Markus has in many ways been our founder and visionary, and we are tremendously saddened that he will not be part of our future plans. His leadership of and passion for our industry will be sorely missed," says Smith.

The 2018 CTS Cape Premier Yearling Sale will be held at the CTICC on 20 & 21 January 2018 and the catalogue can be viewed on the CTS website:

www.capethoroughbredsales.com

#### DIGEST DIARY

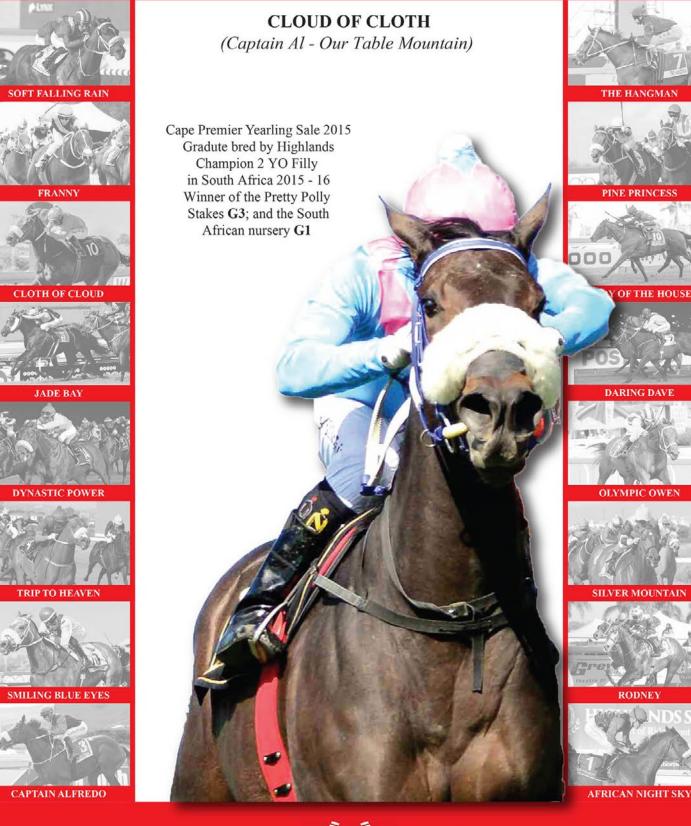
### **Features To Come**

Ioacai	
Sat 23 Dec	<b>(L) Southeaster Sprint</b> 1100m Kenilworth
Tue 26 Dec	<b>(L) Christmas Handicap</b> 1600m Greyville
Sat 30 Dec	<b>Gr3 Lebelo Sprint</b> 1000m Turffontein (S)
Sun 31 Dec	<b>Gr3 Flamboyant S.</b> (F&M) 1600m Greyville (T)
Wed 3 Jan	<b>(L) Lady's Bracelet</b> (F&M) 1600m Fairview (T)
Fri 5 Jan	Gr2 Sceptre Stakes (F&M) 1200m Kenilworth (S)
	<b>(L) Jamaica Hndcp</b> (F&M) 2000m Kenilworth (S)
Sat 6 Jan	<b>Gr1 Queens Plate</b> 1600m Kenilworth (S)
	<b>Gr1 Paddock Stakes</b> (F&M) 1800m Kenilworth (S)
	<b>Gr2 Peninsula Handicap</b> 1800m Kenilworth (S)
	<b>Gr3 Chairmans Cup</b> 3200m Kenilworth (S)
	<b>Gr3 Politician Stakes</b> (3yo's) 1800m Kenilworth (S)
Sun 7 Jan	Gr3 London News Stakes 1800m Turffontein (S) (L) Sea Cottage Stakes (3yo's) 1800m Turffontein (S)
Sat 13 Jan	Gr2 Diadem Stakes 1200m Kenilworth (S) (L) Sophomore Sprint (3yo's) 1200m Kenillworth (S) (L) Swallow Stakes (3yo's) 1200m Turffontein (S)
Sun 21 Jan	(L)Michael Roberts Hcp 1800m Scottsville
Sun 21 Jan	(L)Michael Roberts Hcp 1800m Scottsville
Sun 27 Jan	Gr1 Sun Met 2000m Kenilworth (S) Gr1 Cape Flying Championship 1000m Kenilworth (S)
	Gr1 Majorca Stakes (F&M) 1600m Kenilworth (S) Gr1 Cape Derby (F&M) 2000m Kenilworth (S) Gr2 Western Cape Stayers
	2800m Kenilworth (S) (L) Juvenile Stakes (2yo's) 1000m Kenilworth (S) The CTS 1200 (3yo's) 1200m Kenilworth (S) The CTS 1600 (3yo's)

The CTS 1600 (3yo's)

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#### L'ORMARINS QUEEN'S PLATE



# Gold Standard

What's so special about racing? We can't speak for everyone, but it's the age old endeavour of continuously trying to produce a better horse than last year, breeding the best to the best, hoping for the best and then testing your best out on the race track. It's knowing that on any given card, in any given race, we are seeing the product of hundreds of years' of effort, distilled, poised, ready for the acid test

Any given racehorse will be by a stallion that has done something pretty spectacular and out of a mare that has likely done something pretty darn good, or is related to a horse that is pretty darn good. These horses are not happy accidents- they are the result of generations of careful breeding, of one generation of spectacular after the next. As spectacular achievements usually come with equally spectacular stories, that is what makes looking up pedigrees so interesting.

There are any number of stories in any pedigree, but for me, the story of Gold Standard starts in around 1990 with Terrance Millard's 'iron filly', Olympic Duel.

#### The Iron Filly

It was the hey-day of South African racing and the Millard era was at its peak. Having achieved the remarkable feat of saddling the first three past the Rothmans July post in 1986, Millard was riding the crest of the wave and had just celebrated his 5th July victory with Right Prerogative on a rain-soaked Greyville afternoon in 1989. However, his world would come crashing down a few weeks later when the float carrying ten of his best horses went off the road en route back to Cape Town.

It was a black day for Millard, who had held the pick of his string back in Durban a little longer to get the benefit of a little more sun on their coats. He lost three horses, including Right Prerogative, however among the survivors was a bay filly named Olympic Duel.

The filly would need skilful re-schooling to settle her mind after the accident, but once Millard had got her right, in his words "she would go anywhere and do anything. She was a tough, tough filly." As a 3yo, she claimed the Cape Fillies Guineas, the Bloodline Fillies Championship, the Paddock Stakes and the SA Fillies Guineas silverware. She also finished 2nd in the 1990 July, sandwiched between Illustrador and Jungle Warrior, to give Millard the distinction of saddling the first three past the July post for the second time. The Racing Record for 1990 dished out the following praise, "If courage was to be the yardstick, the undisputed champion of the 1989/90 season would beyond a doubt be Olympic Duel." As it was, the ARCSA panel agreed and Olympic Duel was named Champion 3yo Filly of South Africa.

But that was only the beginning. Listing all her wins takes up so much space that it borders on the absurd. Suffice to say that Millard's 'Iron Filly' would dominate the track for the next two seasons. She would be named South Africa's champion older female for the 1990 and 1991 seasons and retire with 13 wins from 1400-2000m.

At stud, she produced 7 foals of which 6 were winners. Her last foal, born in 2004, was a filly by the mighty Model Man. Olympic Dam and would be the only one of her progeny not to win a race, however blood will out and she is proving her worth in the breeding shed as all her foals to date have been winners and her 2013 Trippi colt looks a lively contender for the 2018 L'Ormarins Queen's Plate.

Varsfontein's Carl de Vos picks up the story. "I bought the mare from Luke Bailles, who is a very good friend of ours. He was very busy building up Singita at the time and his focus wasn't on the horses. He had other mares and wanted to cut down. This mare was the last foal from Olympic Duel, but she hadn't won a race and I suppose that's why he was prepared to let her go. She had two Judpots and a Var and then this Trippi colt. He was a beautiful foal." The De Vos' devote a great deal of time and effort to naming their horses and Gold Standard was no different. Olympic Dam is named after a mine in Australia and tying in his wonderful pedigree with the metallurgic connotations from his dam, they chose to call him Gold Standard. According

> to Wikipedia, a gold standard test is a diagnostic test or benchmark that is the best available under reasonable conditions. Or, the most accurate test possible without restrictions."

#### Purchase

The colt joined the Varsfontein draft for the 2015 BSA Cape regional sale, held at Val de Vie for the first time. Woodhill Racing's Glen Kotzen is well

#### L'ORMARINS QUEEN'S PLATE

known for having a good eye for a horse. He had a mandate from client Hugo Hattingh to find a really nice filly and was viewing prospective lots at the sales yard when Hugo called to say he'd arrived at the sales ground and wanted to join his trainer. "I was standing in front of Gold Standard at the time and said he should come and have a look. He said, 'Is it a filly?' I said, 'No, it's a colt I really like." There is a certain inevitability about some horses and this one has that stamp all over it! They looked at the colt over together and Hattingh agreed he was a standout. Then he asked, "What about the filly?" As it happened, the filly Glen had picked out was also from Varsfontein and named Final Judgement. In hindsight, it was damn near impossible to miss with a Varsfontein purchase at that sale as they packed all of Doosra, Green Pepper, Hack Green, Final Judgement, Pagoda, Maleficent and Gold Standard into a single sales draft – an achievement that will surely take some beating.

Glen says Gold Standard was special from day one. He debuted as an early 3yo on 16 August 2016, finishing 2nd to Purple Tractor. He broke his maiden at the third try, winning over 1600 at Durbanville on 5 October 2016 with Greg Cheyne on board. Glen then travelled his colt to Port Elizabeth, where he obliged by winning the Listed RA Stakes with Craig Zackey in the saddle. "I like using the RA race in PE as part of my programme and have taken a lot of my big horses that way."

Back in Cape Town, Richard Fourie took over the ride as the retained rider for Hugo Hattingh and Peter de Beyer and Gold Standard bested a field including Edict Of Nantes, William Longsword and Our Mate Art in the Selangor Cup in November. With credentials like there, there's nowhere to go other than the Cape Guineas and taking on the best of his generation, Gold Standard mounted a flying late charge and made William Longsword earn every inch of his half a length victory.

#### It's In The Genes

Gold Standard's sire, USA-bred Trippi, was one of the great three-year old sprinter-milers of the world in 2000. He retired to stud in the USA in 2002 and was a champion sire of 2yo's in Florida before joining the Drakenstein Stud Farm roster in 2008. At his new home on the slopes of the Franschoek mountains, he stood alongside a South African turf legend in Horse Chestnut and the two stallions made firm friends. Trippi, with his formidable reputation, came with an equally formidable price tag and it was only thanks to the USA financial crisis at the time that South Africa was able to import a horse of his calibre. However, he has repaid the faith placed in him several times over, producing with multiple Gr1 winners and securing a South African sire's championship for the 2015/16 season.

Trippi turned 20 in 2017 and perhaps the best compliment that Gold Standard has been paid is the fact that Drakenstein Stud Farm bought into him just before the 2017 Met. Their faith was well placed as Gold Standard finished 2.8 lengths fourth behind Whisky Baron, Legal Eagle and Captain America. It was a magnificent performance from the 3yo.

#### Set-back

After the Met, Gold Standard pulled up with a bit of swelling in

one of his fetlocks. They found – and removed- a small chip in the joint and he was given the rest of the season off to recover.

His return to the track as a 4yo was anything but easy. He was given an exceptionally rough trip in the Gr3 Matchem Stakes thanks to Table Bay, but still managed to finish under 2 lengths off Our Mate Art in 4th. Glen's take is philosophical, "He needed the run, but Richard thought we could have won if it wasn't for the interference. Anton Marcus got a two week holiday for his ride on Table Bay, so it's not like were crying for nothing."

On 2 December, Gold Standard cantered down for the Gr2 Green Point Stakes, taking on dual Horse Of The Year and the undisputed champion miler of South Africa, Legal Eagle, at his own game and finished 2.5 lengths 4th. "He took forever to get into stride and when Richard got off, he said possibly the mile is a little too short for him now," explains Glen, "but against top horses in a top field, I wasn't unhappy with the run. It's a typical second run after a layoff. Hopefully by the Queen's Plate we'll have him cherry ripe."

#### **Big ask**

The Queen's Plate is not regarded as the top WFA mile in the country for nothing and at WFA terms, it produces a true reflection of the runners year on year. As such, you could say it is the 'Gold Standard'.

With the beautiful colt now racing in the famous blue and white Drakenstein silks and lining up for their flagship event on their flagship race day, Glen is well aware of the task at hand. "Listen," says the charismatic trainer, "the calibre of horses in Cape Town is incredible right now. Every time you walk into the parade ring at Kenilworth, out of the 16 horses in the ring, you'd give your right arm to train any one of them. And it's just the start of the season - every week, they just keep coming. Just to win a maiden in Cape Town right now is an achievement. Gaynor needs to find a son to replace Trippi and this horse has definitely got the credentials. He's beaten the colt that went on to win the Cape Derby (Edict Of Nantes) and he beat the best 3yo's of last season in the Selangor. He's got the potential and we're confident he will pull off a big one – please God let it be the Queen's Plate!"

Wouldn't it be fitting if the beautiful colt, who will be carrying the Drakenstein silks in their flagship race on their flagship day, with the future hopes of the stud farm resting on his strong shoulders, could deliver the lot on a shiny silver platter?

### RA MEMBERS -L'Ormarins Queen's Plate

The Racing Association has advised that members and guests will be accommodated in the Somerset Room on the 3rd Floor at Kenilworth Racecourse for the 2018 L'Ormarins Queen's Plate Racing Festival. As compensation for the inconvenience, the Racing Association will be subsidising the booking fee. The cost per person will thus be R300 instead of the usual R600.



### **CAPE YEARLING SALE** 25 February 2018

**STAR EXPRESS** R160 000 National 2YO Sales Graduate **Gr3 Victress Stakes** WINNER R644,250 Stakes Earned



### **BORNABULLY**

R20 900 National 2YO Sales Graduate 2017 **BSA** Maiden Juvenile Bonus WINNER Stakes Earned: R41 250 + **BSA Value Added Bonus R40 000** 

#### **GOOD BUDDY** R50 000 Cape Yearling Sales Graduate 2017

**BSA** Maiden Juvenile Bonus WINNER Stakes Earned: R62,500 + BSA Value Added Bonus R40 000

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#### PERSONALITY



On Saturday, 16 December 2017, the 6yo Milton and the 32 year old Gavin Lerena, carrying Billy Prestage's orange and yellow silks, caused equal parts upset and delight, when they downed Dean Kannemeyer's unbeaten Last Winter, not to mention a swathe of Met hopefuls, in the 1800m Premier Trophy at Kenilworth.

Bill Prestage has been part of the Western Cape racing firmament for as long as anyone can remember. Mr Prestage turns 83 next February and as such, he has seen a lot come and go. He prefers to watch, absorb a lot and say very little. When he does speak, it's usually worth listening.

#### About Billy

Mr Prestage dates back to the heyday of the Durbanville Gymkhana Club. "I rode at Durbanville when it was an amateur club. That was very different to the Cape Hunt, although I rode at Cape hunt as well. Durbanville was a semi-professional club and several people earned a living from riding there. Riders never served an apprenticeship. In those days there wasn't an Academy, so appies lived with trainers and all the blokes that were slightly too big to make professional jockeys would ride at Durbanville."

Along with his two brothers, Billy cut his race riding teeth alongside the likes of Terrance Millard, Ralph Rixon and Arthur Gray. "Before us, there was Willie Kleb. Colin Tyler was a top rider – he became the manager of Highlands. I think the other guys are all gone, virtually," he muses. "In 1955 Durbanville became a professional club and that was the end of us at Durbanville."

#### Schedule

Mr Prestage trains only for his own account. "My father was a trainer until he died in 1978 and then I took over. In those days an owner-trainer license still existed, so that's what I took out at the time. I was very occupied with my business and didn't want to train for other people at that time. It grew on me." He gave up his license in 1994 to focus on work and started up again in 2001. "I've got an open license, so I'm entitled to train for whoever I like. I suppose it would be nice to train for

other people if you could pick up some of the best clients, but that's not so easy." Although he's past official retirement age, he still gets up early to work his string.

age, he still gets up early to work his string, then usually goes into the office for a few hours, before heading back to the stables to check on his horses.

"I don't work very hard any more, my son runs the business now. I go there most days, but quite frankly, I don't do a lot." So why choose such a punishing schedule? "It's something to do. I find it very difficult to sit around and do nothing. The horses finish early and I



wouldn't be able to sit around."

#### Milton

Mr Prestage prefers talking about his horses to talking about himself. Milton was a R160 000 purchase from the CTS Book 2 sale in 2013. "We looked at him at the sales and we were all quite struck with him and thought he was a nice looking horse. He was by a new sire, so for that reason a lot of guys gave him a miss, but it never really bothered me. I thought the female line was fairly good and there were all sorts of nice things about him, so that's why we bought him."

"His first couple of starts were very good. I sent him to Ormond Ferraris for that R2,5 million sales race, but he didn't do very well in Joburg at all. He had four starts there and really didn't shape, so I brought him back. I gave him quite a long break and when he started off, he immediately started doing well. He won two on the trot, before finishing just under half a length second to Light The Lights in the 2016 Peninsula Handicap. It was a very good comeback," he notes with satisfaction.

"I always thought he would be a decent sort of a horse. He's probably just a little off the very top class, but he's right up there." Looking at his racing record, there's a noticeable gap at the beginning of every season and Mr Prestage explains that the horse doesn't winter very well. "He gets a very heavy winter coat and doesn't look too nice in winter time. I thought of clipping him last season, but then thought I'm not going to race him, so I decided to leave it. But this year has been a bit difficult. We've not had much of a summer and where his coat would normally come out in September, by October it was still a bit rough."

Milton finished within 5 lengths of Our Mate Art in the Matchem, was within a length of Copper Force in a Pinnacle Stakes three weeks later and then put up a great run to finish 2 lengths behind Mambo Mime in an 1800m handicap, carrying top weight.

> "The best thing about him is that he's a very genuine horse. Everything about him is pretty straightforward, although he likes to be looked after," he notes. "He stands in the middle stable and if I take the horses either side of him out, he frets a bit, so I never leave him without a horse next to him, or he's not very happy, makes a noise, box walks. But otherwise, he's quiet as a lamb."

#### **Riding Engagement**

Gavin Lerena was an eye-catching engagement for Saturday's race. "Quite honestly, I looked for Bernard Fayd'herbe who's done very well on him, but he was riding for the Snaiths. There weren't many others available, but somehow I found Gavin Lerena and was very happy with that. He's a top jockey and would

HAMISH NIVEN

#### BILL PRESTAGE

have been one of my top choices, except for the fact I didn't think he'd seen the horse. But it turns out Gavin had ridden him in Joburg and actually rode quite a bit of work for him with Ormond."

#### To the letter

Milton was drawn mid-field, jumped smartly and lead the vanguard, leading a strong gallop from the get go. Opera Royal gave chase, racing on his inside and sensibly not allowing Gavin to get too much of a head start. Rounding the bend into the home straight, Milton had the field strung out, with Opera Royal trying gamely to keep him in his sights. The pair drew clear of the field, but with 300m left to go, Opera Royal threw in the towel as the chasers started closing. The unbeaten Last Winter, who had been sitting well off the pace, about 10 lengths off the leaders mounted a spectacular late burst, but it was Milton's day as he hung on to score by a short head.

Praising Gavin's ride, Mr Prestage notes, ""I talked about the horse and told Gavin what I wanted and it all worked out the way I'd hoped. He never went for his stick at all. He was lucky enough to hold on by that short head, but I'll take it!" he grins. From 35 starts, his R160k 2013 March Yearling sale purchase now has 8 wins and 19 places to his credit for earnings of R968,900."

Has he given any thoughts to his summer campaign? "The obvious races are the Queen's Plate and the Peninsula Handicap. "He's earned the right to have a shot at the Queen's Plate, but it's just for me to make up my mind whether to take on the very best, or try something that's a little weaker, but neither will be easy. In the Peninsula he'll give away a lot of weight to a horse like Mambo Mime who beat him last time out and in the other race, he's taking on very strong company. I would have to supplement him into both. But I've got until Friday to make up my mind."

#### Long career

Why has he stuck at training for so long? "I like the horses very much," he answers simply. Fortunately I've got a nice team of grooms. They've been with me a long time and as a result, they know what I want and know I can be difficult, so most of the problems that other people have, don't happen for me. I've got two grooms who ride most of my work. I do have the apprentices that ride a bit of work for me, but I've got two very good work riders and the groom who looks after Milton rides 95% of the work on him. Because he looks after the horse and the horse has done well for him, he's in love with that horse, quite frankly."

Although at every sale Mr Prestage protests that he's not buying any more horses, there's invariably something that catches his eye. However, he has scaled back a little and currently has a string of 8. "I've got three 2yo's and five older horses. A couple of the older horses will have to move along shortly. Whether or how I replace them, I'm not quite sure, but that's the joy of training for yourself. I don't have to do anything."

Asked to name a career highlight, he is characteristically diplomatic. "I've enjoyed it all. I wouldn't say there's been any highlight in particular. I did have a very good leased horse called Foreign Agent many years ago that ran second in the Queen's Plate twice (Foreign Agent finished second to the imported Sledgehammer, beating home the likes of Yataghan, Sentinel and Sword Dancer and Lancaster). "That was nice to have," he reflects, "But I've enjoyed it all."

### **Eagle Heads A Royal Entry**



Legal Eagle | Wayne Marks

The R1,5 million L'Ormarins Queen's Plate is South Africa's premier weight-for-age mile and will be run at Kenilworth on Saturday 6 January 2018.

19 entries were received for the race last Friday.

The group is headed by dual SA Horse Of The Year Legal Eagle, who will be bidding for a rare hat-trick in the race. The son of Greys Inn will race under new ownership for the first time.

His anticipated arch-rival, dual Gr1 winner Edict Of Nantes, has been sold to Hong Kong interests and his participation lies in the balance.

2018 sees the second renewal of the two day L'Ormarins Queen's Plate Festival.

Day 1 kicks off with the Garden Party, held on Friday, 5 January with a 'short format' 8 race card, headlined by the Gr2 Cartier Sceptre Stakes.

Supplementary entries for the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate close at 11h00 on Friday 22 December.

Declarations are due by 11h00 on Thursday 28 December.

2	LEGAL EAGLE	(6G)	60.0	123	Sean Tarry
10	CAPTAIN AMERICA	(7G)	60.0	118	Brett Crawford
16	EDICT OF NANTES	(4C)	60.0	118	Brett Crawford
4	MARINARESCO	(5G)	60.0	118	C Bass-Robinson
8	SAIL SOUTH	(7G)	60.0	117	Brett Crawford
14	HAT PUNTANO (ARG)	(4C)	60.0	116	MGAzzie/AA Azzie
7	DEO JUVENTE	(6G)	60.0	115	Geoff Woodruff
17	GOLD STANDARD	(4C)	60.0	115	Glen Kotzen
1	SILICONE VALLEY	(7G)	60.0	111	Glen Puller
18	HEAVENLY BLUE(AUS)	(4C)	60.0	106	Mike de Kock
12	LAST WINTER	(4C)	60.0	106	D Kannemeyer
15	NEBULA	(5G)	60.0	105	Brett Crawford
9	OUR MATE ART (AUS)	(4G)	60.0	103	C Bass-Robinson
5	AFRICAN NIGHT SKY	(4G)	60.0	102	Justin Snaith
19	COPPER FORCE	(4G)	60.0	101	Justin Snaith
11	AFRIKABURN	(6G)	60.0	95	B Justin Snaith
6	IT IS WRITTEN	(7G)	60.0	88	Justin Snaith
13	NOTHER RUSSIA	(5M)	57.5	108	Mike de Kock
3	SIR DAVID BAIRD	(3G)	55.0	95	Mike de Kock





### WRITERS AWARD: win a trip for two to glorious goodwood

#### Rules for the competition:

The competition is open to all members of the public.

Write a non-fiction, original piece of 1000 - 5000 words.

Content must relate to the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate Racing festival, to be held in January 2018 at Kenilworth Racecourse.

Entries submitted to writerscontest@sportingpost.co.za no later than 12 January 2018.

All entries will be acknowledged. The judges' decision is final.

The winner will win a trip for two, including flights and accommodation to attend the Qatar Goodwood Festival in England in early August 2018, or a trip for two to attend the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate Racing Festival in Cape Town in January 2019.



www.lqp.co.za

#### **Short Heads**

### 1-2-3

Maine Chance's dual SA Champion Sire Silvano, currently South Africa's Leading Sire by stakes earned for 2017-2018, produced the top three finishers in Saturday's Gr3 Victress Stakes at Kenilworth. The son of Lomitas' daughters Star Express, Premier Dance and Nightingale filled the first three placings. In a clean sweep, Silvano is also damsire of fourth place finisher Goodtime Gal and sire of fifth placed Silver Thursday. Bred by the Dr Ian Heyns, Star Express was a 75th stakes winner for Silvano. The great sire produced a similar feat in the 2015 Vodacom Durban July.

Avontuur sprint king Var (Forest Wildcat), the sire of 20 Gr1 horses, headed by champions Variety Club, Val De Ra and Via Africa, enjoyed a cracking weekend with 6 Southern African winners . His 13 lots on next month's Cape Premier Yearling Sale will again be in great demand.

### TALK IS CHEEP

The exciting Var colt Talk Of TheTown followed up on his maiden score with a good win under Anton Marcus at Kenilworth on Saturday in the Mayfair Speculators silks. In his typical cavalier witty fashion, trainer Joey Ramsden chirped, 'now there's an appropriately named horse for you!'



Highlands Stud's outstanding sire Dynasty was represented by his 52nd stakes winner when his Ascot Stud bred son Stormy Eclipse landed the Listed Memorial Mile at Fairview on Friday. Dynasty has 23 Gr1 performers to his credit-and counting!



Christophe Soumillon guided Skaters Waltz (Ire) to a narrow success in a 2400m event on Saturday evening at Lyon La Soie Racecourse in the southeast of France to register his 301st win this season. With this victory in the modest claiming event, the Belgian-born jockey broke the previous European record of 300 winners established last year by rising star Pierre-Charles Boudot.



### Bully's Got Beef

The first juvenile winner for Eightfold Path (Giant's Causeway) won at Fairview on Friday in an 800m Juvenile Plate. Born A Bully, bred by Peter and Jenny Blyth of Clifton Stud, is a half-brother to Gr3 winner The Plunderer. The winner sold for just R20 000 off the 2017 National 2YO Sale to trainer Gavin Smith – and he banked the R40 000 Added Value Stakes Bonus!

Justin Snaith's Sun Met candidate African Night Sky galloped over 1400m at Kenilworth before the start of racing on Guineas Day. Working with stablemates Heartland and Star Chestnut, the Dynasty gelding wasn't asked to do too much by Bernard Fayd'Herbe, who pronounced himself 'very happy' afterwards.

### Hat For LQP

Trainer Mike Azzie will fly the Argentinian-bred Hat Puntano down to Cape Town on the Friday before the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate. The Azzman says he was satisfied with the son of Hat Trick's prep third at Turffontein on Saturday. "He had no luck in running and the race was run at a crawl. It turned into a sprint and that didn't suit him. That said, he was not tuned up for it." A decision will only be made about Hat Puntano's Sun Met plans after the Queen's Plate and the veteran conditioner says he is under no false illusions about taking on a champion like Legal Eagle. "We will be fit and ready to take them on," he said.



#### LOUW FLYER



There is nothing quite as heart-warming as a happy horse and owner. When that horse is a Gr1 winner that survived a bush-racing ordeal, that owner is his Gr1 jockey and the whole package comes gift-wrapped in a catchy tune, that's a special kind of awesome. It's a story I've been saving up all year, so in the spirit of spreading a bit of festive happiness, I took some time to catch up with Glen Hatt and Wavin' Flag.

#### Wavin' Flag

Wavin' Flag (Silvano – Garland) was bred by former Maine Chance stud manager, John Slade and his wife and bought as a weanling by a grooms' co-op. The colt was bought back at the National 2yo Sale and eventually joined the Brett Crawford yard, racing in the interests of a syndicate.

Being quite a light-framed horse, Wavin' Flag didn't see the racecourse until well into his 3yo year, debuting at Kenilworth on 20 February 2013. Glen was Brett's stable jockey at the time and says the team always felt the horse had a big race in him. "He wasn't going to be the next champion, but we had a lot of belief in him and always felt if we got him right, he'd be able to crack a feature."

Wavin' Flag had 5 starts as a 3yo for 1 win and three places. He started his 4yo season in handicap company, placing consistently and cracking a second win over 2400m at Durbanville on 12 October 2013. He was 4th in the J&B Jet Stayers on Met day 2014 and 3rd in the Lektron Chairman's Cup in February, before joining the Crawford string in Durban.



#### Durban

"We took him specifically with the Gold Cup in mind," remembers Glen.

"It was a big ask – lots of stayers don't get the 3200m and he was only a two time winner." Wavin' Flag's first start in Durban was over 1900m on 16th May when he finished 6th (but only 2,3 lengths off) stable companion Futura. "We'd put blinkers on and he never travelled," remembers Glen. "I had to push him from three quarters of the way back. He was a hard ride."

However, Wavin' Flag blossomed in KZN. "Being quite a light horse, he didn't take much work and I think he battled in the sand in Cape Town. The lighter Durban tracks were easier on him. He started travelling better, gained a lot of confidence and started enjoying his work. He started travelling in his races too."

In the Gr3 Lonsdale Stirrup Cup, he finished less than a length 4th to Wild One. "He was travelling really well and I thought we would win, but as he hit the front, he ducked with me, so I said to Brett we need to take the blinkers off." It did the trick. In a traffic-plagued Gold Vase, a blinkerless Wavin' Flag ran Hot Ticket to a 0.15 length second at Greyville.

On Saturday, 26 July 2014 the plan came together when Wavin' Flag enjoyed a trouble-free run to lift the Gold Cup trophy. "Before we left for Durban, one of the partners pulled out and Ian Longmore asked my opinion about taking a share. I said 'grab it, he'll win the Gold Cup,' remembers Glen. "I said it with hope, but I did have belief in the horse. When you make a plan to go somewhere with a horse and it comes to fruition, it's special, you know?"

#### Grit

Wear and tear on his hands meant Glen had worn down the cartilage in his right wrist and desperately needed medical attention. "I'd been struggling with my hand for about six months, but the yard was doing so well. We had brilliant horses like Futura and Captain America coming through." With the team bullish about Futura's July hopes, Glen scheduled surgery after the Gold Cup and rode through the Durban season with the help of cortisone injections.

Although the July was not to be, Wavin' Flag's Gold Cup formed the first half of a back to back Gr1 double on the day as Glen and Brett won the Champions Cup just 45 minutes later with Futura, crowning a stellar season for the team.

It is one of those days one only truly appreciates in hindsight – while it would be one of the most glittering highlights of Glen's career, unbeknown to him at the time, it would mark his last day as a jockey.

#### WAVIN' FLAG

#### All change

After his Gr1 double, Glen had one more ride on the day which finished 5th, he flew back to Cape Town on Sunday and on Monday, he was on the operating table at 9am.

"They took a piece of tendon from my arm and put it between the bones in my wrist. That op was my best chance of being able to ride again. There was never any guarantee it was going to work, but you have to go in positive."

"I was so looking forward to the Cape season, but my hand just wasn't coming right. The physios kept telling me to try and bear with it, but eventually they admitted it wasn't working. As we got close to the Green Point Stakes, I said to Brett there's no way I'd be able to ride and said we needed to find another jockey."

"It was a lot to come to terms with, but luckily I'd had a good few months after the first op to think things over. I'd had the best year of my professional life, Brett and I were really gelling as a team and we had all these good horses coming through. A lot of guys said I should try and come back, but I had lost a lot of my grip strength which meant I'd be in trouble with a really strong horse and I could be a danger to other horses and riders on the track. Also, if I had another fall, I would risk damaging my hand even further." Ultimately there wasn't really much choice. "I had good insurance, though, thank goodness," he shrugs.

#### Moving on

Having made peace with the fact he'd never ride again, Glen underwent a second, more extensive, operation a few months later to stabilise the joint. He had a good break to rest and recover and then joined Maine Chance as their racing manager. "I still popped into Brett's yard from time to time and Wavin' Flag's name always came up because people always asked after him, so he was always in my mind, but life carries on, you know?"

Wavin' Flag raced for another season and then did a tendon, bringing his racing career to an end. He was at Jenny Millington's Thoroughbred Rehoming Centre in Philippi waiting for a second career home when disaster struck. On Wednesday, 12 April 2017 Wavin' Flag and his paddock buddy Maximum Flo were stolen from THRC by alleged bush racers. After huge rescue efforts, the horses were found abandoned in the Cape flats two days later. Wavin' Flag, who had always been a timid soul, stayed resolutely by his friend's side until help arrived. Maximum Flo had sadly been badly injured and had to be euthanased on humane grounds. Flag was tired, footsore and dehydrated, but by some miracle, had survived unscathed.

#### **New Beginnings**

I had joined a long line of visitors to see Wavin' Flag at THRC after his ordeal. His mane had been crudely hogged and he was a little shut down, as one might expect, but he accepted my company while he ate his dinner. Once he was sufficiently recovered, he went back to Brett's yard.

"I didn't really want a horse, but when I heard he'd been stolen, I said if no-one else takes him, I'd be interested," says Glen. "I offered to take him and that's how it happened." So In May 2017, Wavin' Flag joined the Hatt family and moved to a local livery yard, where Glen's daughters have riding lessons.

His new livery facility is near where I live, so I've popped in to visit

and was thrilled to see him shiny and sparky and starting to figure out that he was in a good place. With Christmas around the corner, it seemed a good time for another visit. Glen kindly agreed to re-tell the story and do a little photo op.

Wavin' Flag had been groomed and polished to within an inch of his life – although Glen was exasperating that he'd rolled and undone all his hard work. Wavin' Flag's mane has grown back, he has filled out (finally!) and is glowing with good health.

Glen tries to convince me that he 'does horses for a job, not for fun', but there's an empty carrot bag and an obvious rapport between the two that states firmly otherwise. "The plan was always for the kids to ride him eventually, so I started him off. While they were having riding lessons, I would take him for out rides into the bush, that sort of thing."

"At one stage I hadn't been able to ride him for three weeks and I got on him and he was like a frikkin 2yo! I don't know if I'm getting older, but he was very fresh. Not naughty," he adds quickly, in case I should think badly of his horse, "just fresh". But Glen is enjoying owning this special horse.

"People always ask about him and it's nice to be able to say where he is now. Once he's had a bit more work, I'm really looking forward to seeing my kids riding him and getting him going."

They say every horse deserves to be loved by a little girl once in its life. Seems a jockey comes a pretty close second.

### **Meet Glen Hatt**

Former top jockey Glen Hatt is a familiar face in Cape Racing circles. He retired from the saddle after 30 years in February 2015 and these days fills the role of Racing Manager to Maine Chance Farms.

Hatt joined the SA Jockey Academy alongside the likes of Piere Strydom and Robbie Fradd in 1980. His first winner came aboard a horse named Ombarium for Vaughan Marshall at Scottsville on 22 September 1982 and his last race meeting as a jockey was at Greyville on Saturday, 26 July 2014, when he closed off the season with a Gr1 double, winning the eLan Property Gold Cup on Wavin' Flag and the Beach Beauty Champions Cup on Futura. He'd ridden 82 winners from 597 rides, giving him a 13% strike rate for the season.

A former KZN Champion jockey Glen rode in Australia for a short time and holds the record for the most winners by a foreign jockey on the island of Mauritius – where he was champion jockey for three consecutive seasons. He has ridden two Met winners.

The writing was on the wall in terms of his pain and after his triumphant Gold Cup day, Glen took a break from riding to undergo surgery to his right wrist, which had at that stage been troubling him for some time- and would ultimately force his retirement.

### Stay in Touch with the Latest News

#### BREEDING

# Pure Guineas Gold

When Tap O' Noth landed Saturday's Gr1 Cape Guineas, he ensured his late sire Captain Al joined an elite group of stallions responsible for at least two major Guineas winners in a single crop.

Not only did Tap O' Noth become his sire's second consecutive winner of the Cape Guineas but Captain Al is also sire of this season's brilliant Gr1 Cape Fillies Guineas winner Snowdance. The latter is one of two daughters of her sire to have won the Cape Fillies Guineas with Captain's Lover being the other.

With regional Guineas yet to be run this season in Gauteng and KZN, Captain Al's impressive feat could well increase further.

#### War Talk

Captain Al is one of two Cape classic winners produced by his Broodmare Of The Year dam Off To War, with Cape Fillies Guineas winner Shadow Dancing being the other.

Other local stallions to have enjoyed more than one guineas winner in a crop include Al Mufti, whose sons Captain Al and The Sheik won the Cape Guineas and SA Guineas respectively in 2000, Fort Wood, whose daughter Shadow Dancing captured the Cape Fillies Guineas in 2004-2005 and son Dunsinane won the SA Guineas of the same season and Dynasty. The latter's Act Of War (Cape Guineas) and Alexis (KRA Fillies Guineas) both landed Guineas in the South African racing season of 2013-2014.

Safe to say the late Al Mufti has had an extraordinary influence on the Cape Guineas –not only is he responsible for Captain Al, but he is broodmare sire Guineas winners Elusive Gold (Sail From Seattle) and Jay Peg (Camden Park).

#### Chestnut

The late Fort Wood went close to enjoying a Guineas treble in 1998-1999, with sons Horse Chestnut and Fort Defiance taking the Cape and Newmarket Guineas respectively, and daughter Dog Wood running second in the Cape Fillies Guineas.

Throughout history, a handful of outstanding stallions have come up with more than one major Guineas winner in a crop.

In 2017, the world's premier stallion Galileo achieved the remarkable feat of his stock landing both the 2000 and 1000 Guineas, with Churchill winning the English 2000 Guineas and daughter Winter —who beat paternal half-sister Rhododendron in the process-the 1000 Guineas.

Churchill and Winter would go on to lift the Irish 2000 and 1000 Guineas, respectively.

Galileo appears in the pedigrees of six of the past seven 2000 Guineas winners, and is sire of the last two winners – Minding and Winter- of the 1000 Guineas.

Even Galileo, however, is yet to achieve the remarkable feat of his progeny winning all the British classics in a single season –a feat the unbeaten St Simon accomplished in 1900. His son Diamond Jubilee won the 2000 Guineas, Derby and St Leger that year, while St Simon daughters Rhoda and Winifreda won the Oaks and 1000 Guineas respectively.



#### Fairway

Prior to Galileo siring the double, the last stallion responsible for a same season 1000/2000 Guineas double was Fairway, whose son Pay Up won the 1936 2000 Guineas, with his daughter Tideway lifting the 1000 Guineas that season.

Danehill accomplished a remarkable feat in 2002, when his progeny won all of the 2000, Irish 2000, and French 2000 Guineas. Danehill's champion Rock Of Gibraltar won both the English and Irish 2000 Guineas, while ill-fated Danehill colt Landseer lifted the French equivalent in the same year.

The son of Danzig enjoyed another major Guineas double in 2006, when his sons George Washington and Aussie Rules won the English and French 2000 Guineas respectively. Remarkably, Danehill had a total of 14 Guineas winners- with his tally including winners in all of Australia, Britain, Ireland, France, and New Zealand.

Captain Al is not the only current or previous Southern Hemisphere sire to enjoy a notable Guineas double this season. Champion New Zealand sire Savabeel is sire of both the New Zealand 2000 Guineas (Embellish) and 1000 Guineas winners (Hasahalo) this season respectively.

#### The Tetrarch

Tap O' Noth, a half-brother to Saturday's Gr3 Cape Summer Stayers Handicap winner Strathdon (Silvano), is a direct descendant of one of history's greatest ever broodmares, Mumtaz Mahal (The Tetrarch).

The latter is ancestress of numerous high class performers the world over, with other Guineas winners descending from the 'Flying Filly' including On The House (1000 Guineas), Zarkava (French 1000 Guineas), Petite Etoile (1000 Guineas), Aussie Rules (French 2000 Guineas), Yesterday (Irish 1000 Guineas), and Nishapour (French 2000 Guineas). Local champion and Gauteng Fillies Guineas winner Igugu is another descendant of this remarkable producer.

Mumtaz Mahal was also granddam of champion sire Nasrullah, sire of 1000 Guineas winner Belle Of All and 2000 Guineas winner Nearula.

Tap O' Noth's pedigree should create plenty of interest in him as a potential stallion.

#### BREEDING

### **Farewell Archipenko**

Archipenko (Kingmambo-Bound I, by Nijinsky), who recently sired his third Gr1 winner – Hong Kong Cup hero Time Warp (GB) – has died at Lanwades Stud in Newmarket from a rare form of lymphoma. He was just 13.

A press release from Lanwades owner Kirsten Rausing reads:

"Archipenko had a brief illness due to a rare, rapid and aggressive lymphoma. This is a fatal but non-infectious condition that is, sadly, untreatable. Until shortly before his death, Archipenko had been in good health and, in fact, successfully covered mares to Southern Hemisphere time at Lanwades. Archipenko, as good-looking as he was well-bred, was a delightful individual to deal with and he is an enormous loss to Lanwades and the European Thoroughbred breeding industry in general."

Trained initially by Aidan O'Brien and campaigned in the Michael Tabor silks, Archipenko won the Gr2 Derrinstown Stud Derby Trial in 2007 but trailed in last behind Authorized (Ire) (Montjeu {Ire}) in the blue riband.

Three further Gr1 assignments that season resulted in off-the-board finishes and he was transferred to trainer Mike de Kock.

Archipenko reappeared at the 2008 Dubai carnival in the silks of Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa al Maktoum and in his second start for his new connections, scooped the Gr2 Al Fahidi Fort. He was third next out in the Gr1 Dubai Duty Free and put it all together for a Gr1 win next time in the Audemars Piguet QEII Cup at Sha Tin.

Archipenko returned to Britain that summer to take the Gr2 Summer Mile at Ascot and put in a strong showing in a trip to the USA to be second in the Gr1 Arlington Million.

He added one more group win before his career came to a close, taking the Gr3 Zabeel Mile at the 2009 Dubai carnival.

Archipenko stood at Lanwades and also shuttled to Argentina. There, he was responsible for this year's Gr1 Gran Premio General San Martin winner Forty One (Arg) and three other Gr1 winners.

His European flagbearer was the Gr1 British Champions Fillies and Mares Stakes winner Madame Chiang (GB), while Time Warp last weekend gave his sire a Gr1 winner on three continents.

Thoroughbred Daily News

### **Remember Tracy?**

Guangdong, who hails from the family of an SA champion, made her debut in the Pluck@Vinery Plate at Canterbury on Wednesday.

Trained by Chris Waller, the 3yo Guangdong is by Fastnet Rock out of the beautifully bred Kylikwong (Red Ransom-Tracy's Element, by Last Tycoon), a full-sister to 2010 Australian Horse of the Year Typhoon Tracy.

Kylikwong, who was placed at Gr1 level in the VRC Oaks, VRC Sires' Produce Stakes & Australasian Oaks, is also the dam of stakes-winning stayer Cantonese, Gr2-placed mare Chateau Margaux and Gr3-placed stayer Monteux.

This is the renowned family of champion South African mare Tracy's Element, Danasinga, Cullen, Towkay, Suntagonal, Urge To Merge and Master Of Design.

Tracy's Element always had the pedigree to be something special. She is a daughter of Gr1 Breeders Cup Mile winner, Last Tycoon, Champion Sire in Australia in 1993-1994 and a hugely successful broodmare sire.

She is equally well connected on her female side. Out of the Gr3 winning Ahonoora mare, Princess Tracy, Tracy's Element was a sibling to four stakes horses, including Gr1 Stradbroke Handicap winner, Danasinga (Danehill), and high class South African runner, Topasannah (Gr2 Woolavington Cup). Remarkably, no fewer than three of Tracy's half brothers – Cullen, Danasinga and Towkay –sired Gr1 winners.

Sent into training with Ormond Ferraris, Tracy's Element, who was bred by the Segenhoe Stud, showed ability from the start, winning her first three starts on the trot as a 2yo. Wins in the Gr1 Smirnoff Plate and Gr2 JB Mcintosh Fillies Classic ensured that Tracy would end her first campaign with acknowledgement as the best of her year, and she was named the ARCSA Champion Two-Year-Old Filly of 1992.

Tracy's Element would go on to win a further six races, net another ARC-SA award- Champion Older Female Sprinter in 1994- and build a reputation for herself as one of the finest sprinting fillies to race in South Africa.

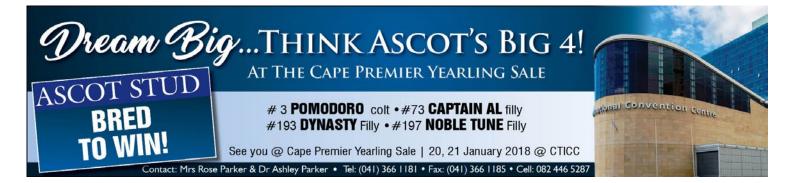
Her victories included a win in the 1994 Gr1 Star Sprint – where her beaten rivals included paternal half-sister, Super Sheila, and outstanding producer, Secret Pact. She also won the Gr1 Computaform and SA Fillies Sprints in 1995. At the end of her racing career, Tracy's Element was returned to Australia.

Tracy's Element's finest hour came in the form of her 2005 foal – a full sister to Kylikwong and Red Element. This was the magnificent Typhoon Tracy (Red Ransom), who won no fewer than six Australian Gr1 races, and who was named Horse Of The Year in 2009-2010

She has retired from stud duties.

### 2018 SHONGWENI SALE

Entry Forms Now Available Please visit www.bsa.co.za Or contact ashley@equine.co.za or 031 303 1017



	LEADING	BRE	EDEF	<b>RS</b> b	y ST	ΆK	ES	SEAS	ON	2017,	/2018	• 1 A	ugus	t - 17 December	2017	
Stakes	Breeder	rnrs	AEPR	runs	wnrs	wns	wnr/ rnr%	SW wnrs	SW		plcs	plc/ rns%	SP	top earner & % of to		
8,147,325	Summerhill Stud	251	32,459	921	59	78	24%	1	1	2%	220	24%	0	Big Bear	1,312,500	16%
7,553,300	Klawervlei Stud	267	28,290	873	60	75	22%	4	5	7%	261	30%	5	Silicone Valley	278,000	4%
6,864,400	Maine Chance	128	53,628	401	40	58	31%	5	5	13%	108	27%	3	Liege	1,203,250	18%
4,667,100	Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfo	ntein 143	32,637	408	39	48	27%	2	3	5%	124	30%	5	Zen Arcade	484,375	10%
3,878,275	Highlands	119	32,591	406	43	50	36%	2	2	5%	96	24%	1	My Friend Lee	269,800	7%
3,387,700	Ascot Stud	71	47,714	216	23	30	32%	2	3	9%	67	31%	3	Bold Respect	528,750	16%
3,056,100	Scott Bros	127	24,064	434	25	31	20%	0	0	0%	129	30%	4	Movie Show	166,250	5%
3,048,175	Drakenstein Stud	84	36,288	245	29	36	35%	0	0	0%	79	32%	3	White River	330,000	11%
2,896,950	Moutonshoek	97	29,865	319	21	29	22%	1	1	5%	80	25%	1	Broadway Trip	715,000	25%
2,861,413	Varsfontein Stud	82	34,895	259	23	28	28%	1	1	4%	84	32%	5	Surcharge	288,750	10%
2,750,000	Hemel 'n Aarde Stud	92	29,891	326	26	34	28%	0	0	0%	93	29%	1	Tommy Waterdevil	168,900	6%
2,052,825	Cheveley Stud	50	41,057	156	11	14	22%	2	3	18%	46	29%	0	Snowdance	891,000	43%
1,746,400	Gary Player Stud	63	27,721	215	18	25	29%	0	0	0%	59	27%	1	Sleepinseattle	217,450	12%
1,712,325	IR Heyns	40	42,808	138	15	20	38%	1	1	7%	42	30%	0	Torre Del Oro	206,400	12%
1,662,275	Favour Stud	55	30,223	234	18	20	33%	0	0	0%	75	32%	0	What A Winner	132,000	8%

	LEADIN	G SI	RES	by <b>S</b>	ΤΑΚ	ES	SE	ASON	201	7/201	8•1 <i>4</i>	Augus	t - 1	7 December 20	17	
Stakes	Sire	rnrs	AEPR	runs	wnrs	wns	wnr/ rnr%	SW wnrs	SW wns	SW/ wnr%	plcs	plc/ rns%	SP		with stakes otal stakes	
6,766,075	Silvano	181	37,382	510	56	70	31%	5	7	9%	154	30%	7	Girl On The Run	381,250	6%
6,475,025	Trippi	111	58,334	327	39	52	35%	1	2	3%	127	39%	4	Miss Katalin	1,562,500	24%
5,477,413	*Captain Al	127	43,129	366	35	41	28%	2	4	6%	129	35%	6	Snowdance	891,000	16%
5,396,775	Dynasty	111	48,620	308	43	54	39%	6	6	14%	75	24%	2	Liege	1,203,250	22%
4,655,163	Var	167	27,875	538	37	48	22%	1	1	3%	170	32%	1	Sommerlied	168,750	4%
3,823,375	Querari	86	44,458	258	30	37	35%	2	2	7%	76	29%	1	Wonderwall	425,000	11%
3,710,300	*Kahal	104	35,676	377	36	45	35%	0	0	0%	115	31%	2	Wynkelder	202,375	5%
3,337,675	*Sail From Seattle	94	35,507	304	34	46	36%	1	2	3%	81	27%	0	Via Seattle	203,750	6%
3,024,475	Gimmethegreenlight	114	26,530	346	30	34	26%	1	1	3%	80	23%	2	Surcharge	288,750	10%
2,661,925	Elusive Fort	72	36,971	252	26	28	36%	0	0	0%	80	32%	2	Fort Ember	432,400	16%
2,571,425	Jay Peg	82	31,359	270	21	28	26%	1	1	5%	86	32%	1	Silicone Valley	278,000	11%
2,485,250	Ideal World	71	35,004	230	17	27	24%	1	2	6%	70	30%	3	Zen Arcade	484,375	19%
2,390,575	Mambo In Seattle	103	23,209	357	17	25	17%	1	1	6%	100	28%	1	Sleepinseattle	217,450	9%
2,327,325	Pathfork	68	34,225	218	21	26	31%	1	1	5%	74	34%	1	My Friend Lee	269,800	12%
2,306,500	Philanthropist	81	28,475	248	23	28	28%	0	0	0%	57	23%	1	Pack Leader	343,750	15%

	LEADING SIRES of 3YO'S by STAKES SEASON 2017/2018 • 17 December 2017															
Stakes	Sire	rnrs	AEPR	runs	wnrs	wns	wnr/ rnr%	SW wnrs	SW wns	SW/ swnr%	plcs	plc/ rns%	SP	top earner w & % of tota		
3,817,600	Trippi	34	112,282	97	14	18	41%	0	0	0%	46	47%	2	Miss Katalin	1,562,500	41%
3,430,763	*Captain Al	46	74,582	141	17	22	37%	2	4	12%	55	39%	2	Snowdance	891,000	26%
2,292,675	Querari	42	54,588	114	16	18	38%	2	2	13%	34	30%	0	Wonderwall	425,000	19%
2,281,900	Await The Dawn	29	78,686	108	11	15	38%	0	0	0%	26	24%	0	Big Bear	1,312,500	58%
2,260,488	Var	65	34,777	197	19	23	29%	0	0	0%	75	38%	1	Varsity Girl	141,225	6%
2,086,100	Silvano	64	32,595	156	22	26	34%	0	0	0%	46	29%	2	Vacquero	175,000	8%
2,080,325	*Sail From Seattle	54	38,525	171	22	30	41%	1	2	5%	47	27%	0	Via Seattle	203,750	10%
1,863,125	Gimmethegreenlight	66	28,229	190	18	20	27%	1	1	6%	43	23%	1	Surcharge	288,750	15%
1,616,988	What A Winter	57	28,368	163	18	19	32%	0	0	0%	48	29%	2	Magical Wonderland	164,375	10%
1,440,900	*Antonius Pius	53	27,187	194	16	17	30%	0	0	0%	55	28%	0	Sassy Lady	136,550	9%

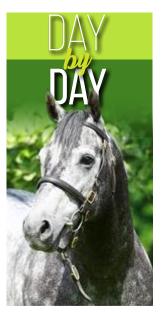
LE	ADING SI	RES b	y STA	٩KE	s o	N S	SAN	D	SEA	SON	2017/3	2018	•1/	August - 17 Dece	mber 201	7
Stakes	Sire	rnrs	AEPR	runs	wnrs	wns	wnr/ rnr%	SW wnrs	SW wns	SW/ wnr%	plcs	plc/ rns%	SP		with stakes tal stakes	
444,900	*Kahal	16	27,806	72	7	8	44%	0	0	0%	26	36%	0	Perfectus	81,425	18%
359,800	Mambo In Seattle	14	25,700	55	3	5	21%	0	0	0%	22	40%	0	Caramito	112,175	31%
280,500	Bold Silvano	5	56,100	31	3	6	60%	0	0	0%	14	45%	0	Two Gunsy	103,575	37%
246,600	A P Arrow	8	30,825	41	4	5	50%	0	0	0%	11	27%	0	Portman Square	82,900	34%
233,075	Elusive Fort	5	46,615	17	4	4	80%	0	0	0%	7	41%	0	Elusive Singer	103,325	44%
210,025	Seventh Rock	8	26,253	33	2	3	25%	0	0	0%	18	55%	0	Rock Burner	116,100	55%
177,450	Trippi	6	29,575	20	4	4	67%	0	0	0%	6	30%	0	Weskus Klong	53,075	30%
170,450	Philanthropist	10	17,045	24	3	4	30%	0	0	0%	5	21%	0	Phil's Power	65,425	38%
166,575	*Tiger Ridge	7	23,796	26	2	3	29%	0	0	0%	10	38%	0	Devious Tiger	79,425	48%

	LEADING	BKEI	DER	Sby	′ AE	PR	SEA	SON 2	017	7/2018	• 1 A	ugust	- 17	December 2017	in To or mo	re mrs
Stakes	Breeder	wnrs	wns	wnr/ rnr%	SW wnrs	SW	4.1	plcs	plc/ rns%	SP		with stakes tal stakes				
1,616,150	AN Foster	17	95,068	50	8	12	47%	2	4	25%	18	36%	1	Tap O' Noth	790,250	49%
6,864,400	Maine Chance	128	53,628	401	40	58	31%	5	5	13%	108	27%	3	Liege	1,203,250	18%
1,326,400	Wilgerbosdrift	26	51,015	89	8	9	31%	2	3	25%	29	33%	3	Nother Russia	331,250	25%
1,657,925	Oldlands Stud	33	50,240	113	9	12	27%	1	1	11%	20	18%	0	Fullfillyourdream	628,000	38%
1,477,875	Mauritzfontein Stud	30	49,263	125	10	17	33%	0	0	0%	45	36%	2	Haddington	189,650	13%
3,387,700	Ascot Stud	71	47,714	216	23	30	32%	2	3	9%	67	31%	3	Bold Respect	528,750	16%
757,025	Arc-en-Ciel	16	47,314	56	4	5	25%	0	0	0%	17	30%	1	Fort Ember	432,400	57%
1,347,625	PG de Beyer	30	44,921	95	11	12	37%	0	0	0%	29	31%	1	Forest Fox	409,050	30%
441,750	M De Broglio	10	44,175	31	4	7	40%	0	0	0%	4	13%	0	Made To Conquer	145,750	33%

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







National Stud stallion Gregorian has one lot on offer at the Cape Premier Yearling Sale to be held at the Cape Town Convention Centre on 20 and 21 January 2018.

The son of Clodovil (Danehill), a top class miler and winner of the Gr1 Poule d'Essai des Poulains and Gr3 Prix De Fontainbleau and also a sire of Gr1 winners, has a filly (#174) out of the well-related winner producing Rock Of Gibraltar mare, Western Eyes.

Gregorian won the Gr2 Hungerford, Gr3 Diomed and Gr3 Criterion. He was also placed in Gr1's – the July Cup, the St. James Palace, the Queen Anne and the Prix Jean Prat. Hailing from a speed family, his trainer John Gosden labelled him 'a fine looking, tough and ultra genuine racehorse'.

Gregorian is in his third season and stands for a fee of £4 500. His first yearlings fetched up to €60 000 and first runners are due in 2018.

#### **LEADING TRAINERS** by **STAKES** SFASON 2017/2018 • 1 August - 17 [

		JLAS		017720	10 -	I Augu	13U I	.,				
trainer	rides	wins	win %	fav	fav %	wfav %	2nd	2nd %	1st four	1st four%	stakes	stks/ rides
J Snaith	506	70	14%	87	17%	32%	54	11%	221	44%	8,501,975	16,802
SG Tarry	395	31	8%	57	14%	21%	37	9%	130	33%	6,433,775	16,288
MF de Kock	248	49	20%	89	36%	36%	34	14%	139	56%	4.970.425	20,042
PA Peter	244	43	18%	43	18%	33%	22	9%	112	46%	4,240,813	17,380
C Bass-Robinson		44	12%	44	12%	27%	27	7%	163	43%	4.026.950	10,542
BJ Crawford	263	29	11%	43	16%	23%	38	14%	118	45%	3.552.525	13,508
AC Greeff	371	49	13%	75	20%	33%	52	14%	175	47%	3.373.450	9,093
MG & AA Azzie	199	22	11%	35	18%	20%	29	15%	83	42%	3.002.750	15,089
AG Laird	165	23	14%	36	22%	39%	20	12%	75	45%	2,739,200	16,601
DC Howells	223	28	13%	37	17%	35%	25	11%	96	43%	2,714,850	12,174
VH Marshall	216	28	13%	23	11%	48%	22	10%	91	42%	2,699,175	12,496
GS Kotzen	328	28	9%	27	8%	33%	29	9%	112	34%	2,582,150	7,872
JAJ v Vuuren	171	19	11%	29	17%	17%	29	17%	81	47%	2,541,400	14,862
D Kannemeyer	179	29	16%	32	18%	47%	17	9%	75	42%	2,450,300	13,689
DR Drier	207	24	12%	42	20%	33%	27	13%	95	46%	2,392,413	11,558
Y Bremner	293	31	11%	32	11%	19%	23	8%	123	42%	2,237,825	7,638
GV Woodruff	163	22	13%	39	24%	33%	21	13%	73	45%	2,209,750	13,557
GD Smith	435	23	5%	24	6%	33%	45	10%	149	34%	2,207,150	5,074
J Ramsden	204	20	10%	35	17%	23%	28	14%	86	42%	2,178,075	10,677
DA Sham	262	27	10%	18	7%	28%	28	11%	95	36%	2,056,675	7,850
M Houdalakis	195	22	11%	25	13%	32%	17	9%	80	41%	2,007,963	10,297
T Laing	170	29	17%	29	17%	38%	20	12%	84	49%	1,972,250	11,601
SD Gray	215	20	9%	10	5%	20%	18	8%	81	38%	1,913,951	8,902
G v Zyl	144	19	13%	21	15%	38%	18	13%	63	44%	1,891,125	13,133
GM Alexander	167	19	11%	11	7%	36%	17	10%	64	38%	1,744,500	10,446
C Lensley	268	32	12%	64	24%	22%	27	10%	120	45%	1,688,101	6,299

### LEADING JOCKEYS by WINS

		JEA.		01//20	119 •	I Augi	151 - 1	.7 Dei	Lenin	ei 201	/	
jockey	rides	wins	win	fav	fav	wfav	2nd	2nd	1st	1st	stakes	stks/
			%		%	%		%	four	four%		rides
A Delpech	265	60	23%	105	40%	34%	44	17%	160	60%	5,719,263	21,582
C Murray	369	58	16%	80	22%	36%	44	12%	160	43%	4,472,100	12,120
L Hewitson	527	57	11%	62	12%	24%	57	11%	219	42%	5,425,925	10,296
M Yeni	459	54	12%	82	18%	27%	48	10%	218	47%	4,747,763	10,344
A Domeyer	278	54	19%	84	30%	32%	33	12%	163	59%	4,085,475	14,696
G Lerena	255	52	20%	95	37%	32%	48	19%	153	60%	5,228,038	20,502
K De Melo	427	49	11%	54	13%	37%	50	12%	203	48%	5,038,050	11,799
A Marcus	184	48	26%	83	45%	39%	27	15%	111	60%	4,190,438	22,774
G v Niekerk	220	42	19%	39	18%	23%	30	14%	129	59%	5,640,000	25,636
R Fourie	261	40	15%	47	18%	30%	36	14%	130	50%	3,417,200	13,093
G Wrogemann	324	40	12%	34	10%	32%	31	10%	141	44%	4,695,313	14,492
K Zechner	378	38	10%	30	8%	17%	44	12%	162	43%	3,389,263	8,966
G Cheyne	263	37	14%	56	21%	32%	45	17%	146	56%	3,257,050	12,384
B Fayd'herbe	177	36	20%	44	25%	32%	18	10%	93	53%	3,664,300	20,702
C Zackey	430	34	8%	38	9%	18%	39	9%	157	37%	3,461,513	8,050
R Danielson	271	29	11%	19	7%	26%	21	8%	103	38%	3,504,625	12,932
J Penny	395	29	7%	8	2%	13%	19	5%	110	28%	1,930,575	4,888
R Munger	483	29	6%	11	2%	36%	25	5%	147	30%	2,534,825	5,248
P Strydom	197	28	14%	37	19%	19%	28	14%	85	43%	2,715,175	13,783
JP vd Merwe	379	28	7%	26	7%	35%	26	7%	125	33%	2,565,863	6,770
W Kennedy	267	26	10%	31	12%	32%	37	14%	110	41%	2,509,075	9,397
A Arries	163	23	14%	14	9%	36%	18	11%	74	45%	1,828,450	11,217
M Byleveld	156	22	14%	20	13%	55%	21	13%	72	46%	2,342,450	15,016
M Thackeray	373	22	6%	8	2%	13%	21	6%	109	29%	1,514,826	4,061
R Simons	175	20	11%	33	19%	33%	19	11%	72	41%	2,450,300	14,002
S Veale	246	20	8%	34	14%	24%	34	14%	112	46%	2,887,150	11,736
L												





Gavin Lerena – spoilt the party for punters at Kenilworth on Saturday

Top Gauteng-based rider Gavin Lerena rode the local jocks – and sadly many punters- to sleep with an intelligent ride from the front on the Bill Prestage-trained Mil-

How He Do That?

ton to win Saturday's Gr2 Premier Trophy at Kenilworth in tricky windy conditions. The former SA Champion rider is lying at 6th on the national log (per Thursday

21 Dec) with a healthy 21% win strike-rate. He tried similar tactics on Sir David Baird in the Cape Guineas later in the day – without the same result.



### Half Beats None

Justin Snaith saddled 50% of the Kenilworth feature winners on Saturday and while he probably missed the one he really wanted, the Phillipi conditioner sets the pace on the national championship log

70 winners were achieved at a win

Justin Snaith – Cape based with R8,2 million rand in stakes. His national log leader

strike-rate of 14%- marginally above his strike rate last term. He will be hoping that Dynasty star African Night Sky – who galloped satisfactorily before races on Saturday and heads his Sun Met quintet – will be ready



### The Met Set

to take on the big guns on 27 January 2018.

Dean Kannemeyer and Anthony Delpech came within a whisker of winning the Gr2 Premier Trophy on Saturday with the smashing Sun Met candidate Last Winter. They found

Trainer Dean Kannemeyer and Anthony Delpech are hoping for a big day on 27 January

FOLLOW US



themselves making minor amends 2000km away at Scottsville 24 hours later. Delpech rode Good Buddy to a smooth debut win to maintain the

combination's strike-rate of 31%- they achieved 26% last term. Delpech leads the national log with 62 winners and is said to be keen to ride Last Winter in the Met. Dean is very keen to win the Cape flagship – a race that has eluded him for 18 years.

#### **EXTENDED LISTS OF ALL STATS** are just a click away on the Sporting Post website

Sporting Post statistics reflect all earnings, incl restricted races & handicaps

#### BLACK TYPE RESULTS

#### FAIRVIEW (turf) Friday, 15 December

Course Variant: 1,89s slow (bend) – 1,13s fast (straight) No rain fell in the seven days leading up to this meeting and as a result the course received 42mm of irrigation. The going was posted as good off a penetrometer reading of 21 and the times down the straight, aided by the strong tail wind of 29km/h supported that. However, around the turn it was a totally difference story. The false rail was out from 2m at the 2000m mark to 4m at the 1200m with a 5,5m spur at the 800m. The times around the bend were particularly slow.

#### Memorial Mile (Listed)

#### R150,000

### Team Tara Open For Business

Trainer Tara Laing made it three winners from four runnings of the R150 000 Listed Memorial Mile at Fairview on Friday when the Dynasty colt Stormy Eclipse held on well in a thrilling finish to the afternoon's feature.

Tara is a noted specialist conditioner when it comes to rejuvenating horses and her record with the likes of six-in-a-row winning Red Barrel, champion fourteen-time winner Crown Of Gold and the gallant champion Sir Duke are just a few examples of how she has resurrected careers and put horses back on the winning track. And her Friday feature winner Stormy Eclipse is another example of a refreshing second phaser – the Dynasty gelding in prime form after losing his sparkle in KZN. The yard's dominance of the Memorial Mile in recent years was underlined by the handsome grey's cracking victory from an impossible position at the 200m. Tara trained Red Barrel to win the 2014 Memorial Mile, won the race in 2016 with the Australian-bred Readytogorightnow and maintained her dominance with Stormy Eclipse on Friday.

Charles Ndlovu, who has formed a solid relationship with the gelding, got him to fly late and the pair shaded Razed In Black to win by a short head in a time of 997,48 secs.

Former Gr1 winner Afrikaburn was a half length away in third.

The Ascot Stud-bred Stormy Eclipse is a son of Dynasty (Fort Wood) out of the brilliant fourteen-time winner Stormy Appeal (Kilconnel).

A R2 million National Yearling Sale buy, Stormy Eclipse has blossomed in the Eastern Cape – his career total now being 7 races won with 16 places from 28 starts for stakes of R711 600. Tara says she feels that Stormy Eclipse has a good few seasons left in him and is 'as sound as a bell'.

**Memorial Mile (L) 1600m** Winner Stormy Eclipse (joint second best handicapped) was slow away and lost one length; raced at the back; flew late; got up last stride

Runner up Razed In Black raced 6th; shifted

outwards passing the 200m mark; led 100m; pipped last stride

Third Afrikaburn raced fifth; sweating; beaten 0,6 lengths

**Time:** Although comparatively this was marginally the quickest of the five races around the turn, this was not a fast run race and developed into a sprint for home. We gave the third (prev 88/90/92/92/92) 93 which makes the winner (prev 91/87/91/96/88) 94 and the runner up (prev 95/93/87/76/93) 94

94 1 0.00 STORMY ECLIPSE (5) 60.0 X Ndlovu	3/1
6 gr g Dynasty - Stormy Appeal (Kilconnel) 94 <b>2</b> 0.10 <b>RAZED IN BLACK</b> (1) 60.0 A Domeyer 6 ch g Kahal - Elegant Blush (Jallad)	5/1
93 3 0.60 AFRIKABURN (3) 60.0 C Zackey	15/2
6 b g Trippi - Aquatint(AUS) (Peintre Celebre) 91 4 1.35 Laws Of Succession (8) 60.0 L Hewitson	
91 5 1.40 Eternal Jet (2) 60.0 L Mxothwa   91 6 1.50 Story Of My Life (9) 60.0 JP vd Merw	e 13/1
91 <b>7</b> 1.75 <i>Kingvoldt</i> (4) 60.0 T Gould 86 <b>8</b> 4.00 <i>Our Icon</i> (6) 60.0 G Cheyne	15/1 7/2
75 9 8.75 Master 'n Commander (7) 60.0 C Murray Time: 97.48s (60.93s avg/1000m, or 59km/h) SP Total %:	9/1 17%
1st T:T Laing O:Mayfair Speculators (Pty) Ltd (Nom: Mr D L Brug B:Ascot Stud	

Phi	umel	ela S	hare	price
date	close	high	low	volume
19Dec	1745	1745	1701	291
18Dec	1750	1750	1740	260,000
15Dec	1750	1750	1705	13,176
14Dec	1748	1748	1700	20,387
13Dec	1750	1770	1740	65,560
12Dec	1750	1750	1631	165,978
11Dec	1739	1739	1700	7,871
08Dec	1750	1750	1700	459,960
07Dec	1770	1770	1703	29,395



#### BLACK TYPE RESULTS

#### KENILWORTH (new course) Saturday, 16 December

Course Variant: 1.23s slow (bend)

There was no rain in Cape Town in the seven days prior to this meeting. However, with 30mm of irrigation the going was posted as good off a penetrometer reading (bend) of 20. The false rail was out 3m from the 1800m mark with a 6m spur at the 600m. The most important factor with regards to the conditions was a 48km/h southerly head wind.

Gr1 Cape Guineas (3yo's) R1000,000

#### A Captain's Innings

Vaughan Marshall and his stable rider MJ Byleveld crowned a glorious Cape Guineas double at Kenilworth on Saturday . Jumping from the worst of the draw, MJ Byleveld punched Tap O'Noth into stride early and then settled the giant-striding handsome lad on the outside of his field in mid-rank as Gavin Lerena and Corne Orffer debated who was going to take up the early running – the honour eventually falling to a keen as mustard Sir David Baird, who took the initiative ahead of Bold Respect.

With Tap O'Noth tending to want to lug out at the 250m marker, the honours were in the balance – until the Marshall runner gunned his jets and straightened out to finally get serious.

Byleveld saluted at the line as Tap O'Noth proved too strong and held the late challenge of low-key Selangor Cup runner-up White River by a half length in a time of 98,93 secs. William Longsword won by a similar margin in a time of 99,34 secs last year.

Winning Avontuur-sponsored rider MJ 'Bakkies' Byleveld said that they 'had never been so confident coming into a Gr1'. Tap O' Noth was bred and raised at Varsfontein Stud by Alec Foster and is a son of Captain Al (Al Mufti) out of the one-time winning Wintersweet (Western Winter). Tap O'Noth has won 4 races with 1 place from 5 starts for stakes of R966 250.

Gr1 Cape Guineas (3yo's) 1600m Winner Tap O' Noth (3rd best handicapped) raced 8th; led 200m; ran on Runner-up White River raced with earmuffs; was positioned twelfth, about two lengths

was positioned twelfth, about two lengths behind the eventual winner entering the straight; ran on

Third Like A Panther raced in tenth, half a length behind the eventual winner entering the straight; ran on

**Time:** This comparatively was the fastest of the seven races around the turn. We gave the 4th placed horse (prev 71/80/79/90/83) 92 which makes the winner (prev 74/88/96/97) 96, the runner-up (prev 59/81/81/90) 95 and the third (prev 74/80/80/84/85) 93.

96 <b>1</b> 0.	00 TA	AP O' NOTH	(14)	60.0	M Bylev	veld	4/1		
3 b c Captain Al - Wintersweet (Western Winter)									
		HITE RIVER	(7)		G Chey	ne	13/2		
3 b c Trippi	- Irish	Torrent(USA) (Gia	ant's	Cause	way)				
93 <b>3</b> 1.	75 LII	KE A PANTHER	(3)	60.0	A Marcu	us	16/1		
3 b c Capta	ain Al -	Della Scala (Gali	leo)						
92 4	1.85	Cot Campbell		(4)	60.0	G v Niekerk	15/1		
91 <b>5</b>	2.35	Wonderwall		(12)	60.0	P Strydom	28/1		
91 <b>6</b>	2.55	Pack Leader		(13)	60.0	R Fourie	36/1		
88 <b>7</b>	4.05	Rocket Countdo	wn	(8)	60.0	A Domeyer	11/1		
87 <b>8</b>	4.35	Captain And Ma	ster	(2)	60.0	A Delpech	10/1		
85 <b>9</b>	5.10	Do It Again		(6)	60.0	B Fayd'herb	e 5/1		
84 <b>10</b>	5.60	Undercover Age	nt	(11)	60.0	D Dillon	15/1		
82 <b>11</b>	6.35	Sir David Baird		(5)	60.0	G Lerena	7/1		
78 <b>12</b>	8.60	Bold Respect		(9)	60.0	C Orffer	12/1		
76 <b>13</b>	9.10	Purple Diamond		(1)	60.0	L Hewitson	50/1		
71 <b>14</b>	11.60	Sir Frenchie		(10)	60.0	C Murray	36/1		
Time: 98.9	Time: 98.93s (61.83s avg/1000m, or 58km/h) SP Total %: 117%								
1st T:VH I	Marsha	ull <b>O:</b> Mr A N & The	e Hor	n Mrs <sup>'</sup> G	R Fos	ter <b>B:</b> AN Fo	ster		

### **Doing The Splits**

Kenilworth 16 December

	FC	bend	sc	FR	fin	FC-bnd	bnd-SC	bend	SC-fin	FR/fin
1400m					•				•	
Maiden		13.17	44.41	52.25	88.95		31.24	39.08	44.54	36.70
MR72		12.71	42.78	50.04	87.31		30.07	37.33	44.53	37.27
1600m										
Cape Guineas		24.09	54.19	61.76	99.00		30.10	37.67	44.81	37.24
1800m										
Premier Trophy	19.68	36.74	67.34		111.91	17.06	30.60		44.57	
Victress S.	19.90	36.90	69.78	77.46	113.44	17.00	32.88	40.56	43.66	35.98
2000m										
MR69	31.72	49.68	81.09	88.58	125.78	17.96	31.41	38.90	44.69	37.20
2500m										
Summer Stayers	56.65	78.39	109.56	117.28	155.89	21.74	31.17	38.89	46.33	38.61

Things to note: FC = First call; SC = Second call. Second call is positioned approximately 720m out. The reason that this is used is because we were unable to get a fix on the front horse in the Premier Trophy at the False Rail (FR, end of bend). We did keep the FR measurements in here for comparative purposes, as we usually use these.

Interesting times. Visibly the Premier Trophy and the MR72 looked fast early on the bend. The Victress Stakes on the other hand really stands out as a false run race: very slow on the bend, and then by far the fastest in the sprint home over the final 600m- not a result to rely on then.

#### Gr2 Premier Trophy Cliffhanger!

The gutsy 6yo Milton lowered the colours of the unbeaten Last Winter to win the R400 000 Gr2 Premier Trophy in one of the most exciting finishes of a windswept afternoon at Kenilworth on Saturday.

"This was only Last Winter's fifth start and there were some hard-knockers in the race. He is still learning to race and it was his first time on a left-handed track. There was quite a strong headwind at play so Anthony (Delpech) didn't want to let him roll too early. He could also feel that Last Winter was giving him a full effort so rather than risk unbalancing him, he sent him once the leader was already a good few lengths in credit and rode him with the hands. It was bloody close in the end!" said Kannemeyer, who confirmed that it was possible that his charge would go straight into the Sun Met.

Milton, who had led for most of the journey, picked up his biggest career win to date by a short head in a time of 111,96 secs.

The Maine Chance bred Milton is a son of the recently deceased Lateral (Singspiel) out of the four-time winning Missing No More (Unaccounted For).

A R160 000 Cape Premier Yearling Sale Book 2 purchase, Milton has won 8 races with 19 places from 35 starts for stakes of R968 900.

#### Gr2 Premier Trophy 1800m

Winner Milton made virtually all; given a soft lead, quickened in the second half of the bend; stole a march, just held on Runner-up Last Winter (3rd best handicapped) raced seventh a good 11 lengths off the winner coming off the bend; ran on strongly; would have been winner in another stride

Third Krambambuli raced sixth some ten lengths behind the winner coming off the bend; ran on

**Time:** Comparatively this was the second fastest of the seven races around the turn. We gave the winner (prev 80/98/93/100/100) 99 which makes the runner-up (prev 76/86/95/102) 98 and the third (prev 97/100/98/103/95) 98.

		LTON	(7)	58.0	G Leren		22/1
98 <b>2</b> 0	.05 LA	issing No More(U ST WINTER	(9)	57.5	A Delpe		12/10
95 <b>3</b> 3	.30 KF	nter - Field Flowe RAMBAMBULI	(1)	59.Ó	B Fayd'l		13/1
91 <b>4</b>		aloushe - Sailing Ollivander		io(AUS (3)	) (Wood 57.5	<i>dman)</i> L Hewitso	n 36/1
92 5 85 6		Black Arthur Opera Royal		(10) (6)	58.0 51.0		7/1 44/1
90 <b>7</b> 89 <b>8</b>		Horizon Nebula		(4) (8)	57.5 58.0		r 6/1 8/1
81 9 79 10	8.40	Platinum Prince Ovidio		(5) (2)		G v Nieker	k 16/1
67 <b>11</b>	18.15	Deo Juvente	or E	(11)	60.0	C Murray	9/1
Time: 111.96s (62.2s avg/1000m, or 58km/h) SP Total %: 117%   1st T:WG Prestage O:Mr & Mrs W G Prestage B:Maine Chance							

R400,000

R250,000

#### Gr3 Victress Stakes (F&M)

#### Snaith Star Shines

The gutsy Silvano mare Star Express scored something of a surprise victory in the R250 000 Gr3 Victress Stakes at Kenilworth on Saturday.

"She was so good last summer – but I decided like an idiot to raid Johannesburg for the Gr1 Empress Club Stakes at Turffontein in April. Things went pearshaped and when we brought her back to Durban we just couldn't get her feet right. So we brought her back to Cape Town and worked on getting her back to best," said a smiling trainer Justin Snaith.

He said that, given the highs and lows experienced by many horses during their careers, it was good to see Star Express back where she should be.

The Avontuur –sponsored Callan Murray said that he had worked Star Express a week earlier and that she had felt good – but that he still couldn't believe how strongly she galloped to the line.

"I knew she was fit and well and initially I got trapped deep. I must say I had no intention of being so far forward in terms of my riding instructions. But that's the way the race unfolded and she really ran on so well," said the talented young jockey. The surprise for many of us watching from the sidelines was that when Star Express moved forward so early in the straight, that little, if anything, ran on to challenge her. She beat the revitalised Premier Dance by 1,25 lengths in a time of 113,49 secs. A R160 000 2014 BSA National 2yo Sale purchase by John Freeman, Star Express has undergone a few restructures in the partnership that owns her but has proven a gem with some black-type to boost her R644 250 stakes kitty.

Star Express has won 5 races with 6 places from 17 starts and can boost her paddock value further when she lines up in the Paddock Stakes next month.

Bred by Dr Ian Heyns, Star Express is a daughter of champion Silvano (Lomitas) out of the three-time winner Majestic Star (Doowaley). The latter is a half sister to Star Of Liberty – dam of champion sprinter, Bull Valley (Toreador). This is the same family as the well performed, and currently for sale, Tara Laing galloper, Star Burst Galaxy (Var).

The winner has a half-sister called Stellar Motion (#63) from the first crop of Champion Sprinter Captain Of All on the Cape Premier Yearling Sale next month.

**Gr3 Victress Stakes (F&M) 1800m** Winner Star Express (joint best handicapped) raced 2nd; led 300m; ran on strongly

Runner-up Premier Dance raced fifth 3 lengths behind the winner entering the straight; ran on

Third Nightingale raced seventh, some four lengths behind the winner entering the straight; ran on

**Time:** Slowly run early and ending in a sprint up the straight, this was comparatively the slowest of the seven races around the turn. We gave the third horse (prev 89/101/101/101/86) 99 which makes the winner (prev 62/94/76/92/85) 96 and the runner-up (prev 86/93/94/90/72) 92. A false run race, where the result may not stand up.

96	1 0.	00 <b>ST</b>	AR EXPRESS	(14)	57.0	C Murray	/	19/1
5 ch m	ı Silv	ano - N	Majestic Star (Doo	wale	v)			
92	2 1.3	25 PF	REMIER DANCE	(8)	56.5	S Veale		28/1
4 b f S	Silvan	o - Aki	nfeet (Fort Wood)	• •				,
			GHTINGALE	(6)	60.0	A Delped	:h	4/1
5 b m	Silva	no - Q	uickwood (Fort Wo	òd)				
93	4		Goodtime Gal	,	(4)	58.0	B Fayd'herb	e 9/2
84	5	2.50	Silver Thursday		(1)	50.0	JP vd Merw	
89	6	2.70			(11)	56.5	G Chevne	19/1
84	7		Dynamic Diana		(7)	50.5	G v Niekerk	7/2
88	8	3.70	Epona		(15)	57.0	A Marcus	19/1
88	9	4.00	Louisiana		(10)	57.0	C Orffer	15/1
80	10	4.50	Mervl		(13)	50.0	S Cele	22/1
91	11	5.25	Lady Of the Hou	se	(9)	59.5	P Strvdom	10/1
84	12	5.55	Oriental Oak		(12)		R Fourie	44/1
84	13	5.60	Captain Gambler		(3)	56.5	D Dillon	45/1
83	14	5.70			(2)		A Domever	15/1
82	15	6.95	Francia		(5)	57.0	M Byleveld	36/1
	113		3.05s avg/1000m,	or 5			P Total %:	

Tat T: J Snaith O: Mrs P A Isdell, Mr G Ragunan, Dr Dave & Mrs Sue Whitelaw B:IR Heyns

#### Gr3 Cape Summer Stayers Hcp R250,000

#### Stamina Counts

The smart stayer Strathdon- a half brother to Cape Guineas winner Tap O'Noth- registered a hat-trick of wins when scoring a career peak success in the R250 000 Gr3 Cape Summer Stayers Handicap at Kenilworth on Saturday.

On a red-letter day for the Foster family, who have been supporters of SA racing for 40 years, their Gr1 Cape Guineas success with Tap O'Noth was rounded off in scintillating style by the year older Strathdon, who confirmed that he is well on track for a shot at the Gr2 Western Cape Stayers on Sun Met day.

After Red Peril had filled his customary pacemaking role for much of the 2500m journey, Strathdon moved in menacingly down the inside at the 300m under Grant van Niekerk and drew level with I Travel Light and Our Emperor.

With Our Emperor shifting in on to I Travel Light under pressure, Strathdon stayed out of trouble and ran on strongly at 11-10 to win by a length in a time of 156,27 secs. I Travel Light would have been a welcome birthday winner for visiting German jockey Martin Seidl, who is yet to open his account. Our Emperor maintained his consistent form in third, with the rest in a different race. Bred by Alec Foster, Strathdon is a son of champion sire Silvano (Lomitas) out of the one-time winner Wintersweet (Western Winter).

He has won 6 races with 3 places from 13 starts for stakes of R509 200.

#### Gr3 Summer Stayers Handicap 2500m

Winner Strathdon (joint best handicapped) raced 5th; switched in off the heels of a tiring Red Peril 400m; was carried in by Our Emperor 200m; ran on strongly to lead 120m; won going away

Runner-up I Travel Light raced 4th; brushed Red Peril 300m; led very briefly 150m; outpaced by winner

Third Our Emperor raced 6th; led 350m; shifted away from the crop 200m; well beaten **Time:** Soon strung out, the pace was a fair one for a race of this nature, and the overall time was good. We gave the winner (prev 71/73/80/83/85) 87, which makes the runner-up (prev 78/77/85/81/82) 85 and the third (prev 71/73/7276/82) 83.

87	1 0.	00 <b>ST</b>	RATHDON	(1)	52.0	G v Nieł	ærk	11/10	
4 ch g	4 ch g Silvano - Wintersweet (Western Winter)								
85	2 1.	00 IT	RAVEL LIGHT	(7)	52.0	M Seidl		6/1	
4bgl	Mam	bo In S	eattle - Lady One	assis	(Natior	nal Asse	embly)		
83	3 2.	50 OL	JR EMPEROR	(3)	52.0	G Cheyr	1e	11/2	
4bgl	Dyna	sty - Ex	kpress Queen (Je	et Ma	ster)				
77	4	5.75	Woodland's Fore	est	(9)	52.0	B May	50/1	
92	5	8.00	Mr Winsome		(2)	60.5	B Fayd'herb	e 15/1	
71	6	9.50	Red Peril		(6)	52.0	JP vd Merw	re 15/1	
73	7	9.55	My World		(8)	53.0	R Fourie	13/1	
71	8	15.80	Cape Speed		(4)	57.0	A Delpech	6/1	
51	9	21.05	Mangrove		(5)	52.0	A Andrews	36/1	
Time:	156.	27s (62	2.51s avg/1000m	, or 5	8km/h	SF	P Total %:	116%	

1st T:J Snaith O:Mr A N & The Hon Mrs G R Foster B:AN Foster

### Check the race results on this page

Sporting Post **ABILITY RATINGS (AR)** puts every horse in its place



#### TURFFONTEIN (stand side) Saturday, 16 December

Course Variant: 1.37s slow (bend)

28mm of rain fell on the track in the seven days leading up to this meeting and despite there also being 6mm of irrigation, the going was still posted as good off a penetrometer reading of 21. The false rail was out from 2m on the back straight to 5.5m on the bend, and there was a 5.5m spur at the 700m mark. There was a

moderate 13km/h north westerly cross/head wind.

R130,000

#### **Pinnacle Stakes**

### The Hat Is On

Top trainer Mike Azzie has confirmed that his Argentinian – bred Charity Mile winner Hat Puntano will arrive in Cape Town by air the day before the R1,5 million Gr1 L'Ormarins Queen's Plate.

South Africa's premier weight-for-age mile will be run on Saturday 6 January and Azzie's son of Hat-Trick wrapped up his prep with a 0,55 length third under top weight of 61,5kgs to surprise winner Romany Prince and Unagi in a mile Pinnacle Stakes at Turffontein on Saturday. The Azzman was pleased with the effort by the still underdone 4yo, but felt that the result could have been more favourable had things gone his way.

"The pair of stablemates contributed to a snail's pace which turned the race into a sprint in the home straight. I felt that my jockey could also have made more use of an opportunity that presented itself when the gap opened. But in the end my colt acquitted himself well as he was not suited to the way the race was run at all," said the veteran conditioner.

The ebulliently and fiercely competitive Azzman of a few years ago has been tempered by a man who lets his horses do their own talking on the track. On his Sun Met prospects, he said that a decision would only be made after the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate as to whether Hat Puntano, who races in a partnership of the Queen's Plate sponsors and the Vilela fami-

ly, would run in the 27 January showpiece.

#### Pinnacle Stakes 1600m

Winner Romany Prince (joint best handicapped) raced 8th; ran on; got up very late Runner-up Unagi raced 3rd; led 500m, looked to have stolen a march; just beaten Third Hat Puntano (joint best handicapped) raced 5th and held every chance Fourth French Navy raced tenth some two lengths behind the winner at 400m; beaten less than a length in the sprint home **Time:** Although this was the quickest of the three races over the distance, it was not a fast run race, with the race being decided in a sprint finish. Ratings should be seen in that light for future reference. We gave the winner (prev 101/94/94/101/83) 101, which makes the runner-up (prev 92/83/41/92/100) 104 and the third (prev 72/111) 110.

101	1 0	00 <b>BC</b>	MANY PRINCE	(7)	57.0	M Yeni	2	2/1	
			sy Queen (Royal)			WI TOTI	-	2/1	
104			AGI	(4)		K De Me	lo 1	3/2	
4 ch g	Adm	ire Ma	in - Cariad (North	erń (	Guest)				
110	3 0.	55 HA	AT PUNTANO	(5)	61.5	K Zechne	er	5/2	
4bc			tormy Pursuer(AF	RG) (	Bernst	ein)			
106	4	0.65	French Navy		(2)	60.0	R Danielson	6/1	
105	5	1.15	Matador Man		(11)	60.0	C Zackey	5/1	
92	6	2.35	The Elmo Effect		(1)	55.5	R Munger	36/1	
96	7	2.40	Social Order		(10)	57.0	R Simons	11/1	
85	8	2.65	Zouaves		(8)	52.5	M v Rensburg	13/2	
90	9	4.95	Jiffy		(3)	57.0	G Wrogemann	22/1	
68	10	8.05	Front Rank		(6)	50.0	M Thackeray	44/1	
71	11	8.85	Starrett City		(9)	52.5	F Herholdt	18/1	
Time:	Time: 99.05s (61.91s avg/1000m, or 58km/h) SP Total %: 113%								
1st T	:OA F	erraris	O:Messrs P T &	P Di	makoa	iannis B	Rathmor Stu	ıd	

### **The Foster's Firsts**

British owners-and-breeders Alec and the Honourable Gillian Foster enjoyed a red-letter day at Kenilworth on Saturday, breeding and owning Gr1 Cape Guineas winner Tap O'Noth and the Gr3 Cape Summer Stayers victor, Strathdon.

The two winners are half-brothers.

Alec farms cattle in the UK, so has learnt a lot about breeding livestock and sums it up simply in an interview on www.goldcircle.co.za:

"When you have a very good bull and good cows, you will produce top quality cattle. It is exactly the same in horseracing."

Alec believes Tap O'Noth will stay the trip of the Gr1 Cape Derby, but cautioned, "It's only when they actually go over 2000m that you know."

He also pointed out Strathdon was by the stamina influence Silvano, who is from German blood he had always liked.

Saturday's Cape Guineas was the third Gr1 victory for the Fosters, whose participation in South African racing stretches back to 1985, and Alec considered it their most important win.

Alec farms cattle in the UK, so has learnt a lot about breeding livestock and sums it up simply, "When you have a very good bull and good cows, you will produce top quality cattle. It is exactly the same in horseracing."

The dam of the two Foster winners, Wintersweet, is out of the Elliodor mare, Air Of Elegance, who was bought for the Fosters by John Freeman from Wilfred Koster in 1994.

Air Of Elegance only won one race but has become a stalwart for the Fosters in the breeding shed.



How horses performed in South Africa's black type races, expressed in points based on the kind of races and how far behind the winner they finished.

A **<u>full explanation</u>** of the point system and the complete list of point earners is on the **<u>Sporting Post website</u>**.

#### **TOP EARNERS for 2017/2018** (to 17 December 2017) horse age sex points races Snowdance 3 f 100 2 5 c Liege 100 1 Tap O' Noth 70 3 c 1 Wonderwall 2 3 c 62 Milton 6 c 50 1 Hat Puntano 4 c 50 1 50 The Thinker 4 c 1 50 Legal Eagle 6 c 1 Silicone Valley 7 с 50 1 Girl On The Run 5 f 45 2 White River 3 c 40 2 32 2 Bella Sonata 5 f Rocket Countdown 3 c 30 1 Nother Russia 5 f 30 1 Monks Hood 30 3 c 1 Just Sensual 4 f 30 1 Fort Ember 5 f 28 1 Will Pavs 26 2 6 c Pagoda 4 c 26 1 Coral Fever 5 c 26 1 Our Mate Art 4 c 25 1 Strathdon 4 c 25 1 My Friend Lee 4 f 25 1 Last Winter 4 c 24 1 Edict Of Nantes 4 c 20 1 3 c Dutch Philip 18 1 Social Order 18 4 c 1 Like A Panther 3 c 18 1 Cot Campbell 3 c 16 1 Captain America 15 7 с 1 Hoist The Mast 5 f 14 1 Seerite 3 c 14 1 Naafer 3 c 14 1 Bi Pot 4 f 13 1 Mrs O 3 f 10 1 French Navy 9 6 c 1 New Predator 5 c 8 1 Always In Charge 4 c 8 1 8 Amazing Strike 6 c 1 She's A Giver 4 f 7 1 Live Life 4 f 7 1 Svlvan On Fire 4 f 6 1 Do It Again 3 c 6 1 Casual Diamond 3 f 6 1 Broadway Trip 5 3 c 1 Tahini 5 f 4 1 Oh Susanna 3 f 2 1 Heartland 6 c 2 1 2 Vacquero 3 c 1 Fresnaye 3 f 2 1 2 8 c 1 Tevez Finchatton 6 c 2 1 Flying Free 3 c 1 1

### SIGNPOSTS 1st & 2nd season sires - 2yo's

**ATO** (Royal Academy) Queen Of The Dance 2f (Personify by Personal Hope) *Kenilworth 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate (Fillies) 1000m (23/12)* 

#### **BYWORD** (Peintre Celebre)

Peapack 2c (Far Hills by Fort Wood) <u>Turffontein 2 Maiden Juvenile Plate 800m (23/12)</u>

#### EIGHTFOLD PATH (Giant's Causeway)

Brave Zndaya 2f (Rashuli Breeze by Windrush) <u>Turffontein 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate (Fillies) 800m (23/12)</u> Brave Luciano 2c (Cante Libre by Kahal) <u>Turffontein 2 Maiden Juvenile Plate 800m (23/12)</u>

#### IRISH FLAME (Dynasty)

Irish Single Malt 2c (Bourbon Rose by Requiem) <u>Greyville 10 Barrier Trials (Polytrack) 1000m (22/12)</u> Tombola 2f (Fancy Flutter by Kahal) <u>Scottsville 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate (Fillies) 800m (24/12)</u> Irish Beauty 2f (Roses For Lizzy by National Emblem) <u>Scottsville 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate (Fillies) 800m (24/12)</u>

#### MASTER OF MY FATE (Jet Master)

Lucille 2f (Lizabella by Sinndar) <u>Kenilworth 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate (Fillies) 1000m (23/12)</u> Lucky Dancer 2c (Shedrivesmecrazy by Tiger Ridge) <u>Kenilworth 2 Maiden Juvenile Plate 1000m (23/12)</u>

#### NOBLE TUNE (Unbridled's Song)

Cheeky Lee 2f (Blaze Of Respect by Dupont) <u>Scottsville 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate (Fillies) 800m (24/12)</u> Tune Of Angels 2f (Dark Eyed Beauty by Kefaah) <u>Scottsville 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate (Fillies) 800m (24/12)</u>

#### **ORATORIO** (Danehill)

Mantario Express 2f (Manyano by Kahal) <u>Turffontein 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate (Fillies) 800m (23/12)</u> Van Halen 2c (Rock Concert by Lecture)

Turffontein 2 Maiden Juvenile Plate 800m (23/12) Oratorina 2f (Maximum Break by Western Winter) Scottsville 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate (Fillies) 800m (24/12)

#### **POMODORO** (Jet Master)

Cirillo 2c (Miss Wordsworth by Lake Coniston) Kenilworth 2 Maiden Juvenile Plate 1000m (23/12)

#### POTALA PALACE (Singspiel)

Titan Of Tibet 2c (Spectre Lady by Spectrum) <u>Kenilworth 2 Maiden Juvenile Plate 1000m (23/12)</u>

#### WHERE'S THAT TIGER (Storm Cat)

See You Tyger 2f (Sioux She by Ashaawes) <u>Turffontein 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate (Fillies) 800m (23/12)</u> Temp The Tiger 2c (Figure Eight Knot by Captain Al) <u>Kenilworth 2 Maiden Juvenile Plate 1000m (23/12)</u>

### 2nd season sires - 3yo's

**AWAIT THE DAWN** (Giant's Causeway)

Piera 3f (Boreal Applause by Royal Applause) Fairview 5 Novice Plate (F&M)(Polytrack) 1900m (22/12) Zulu Dawn 3f (Ithala by Albarahin) Turffontein 8 MR 64 Handicap (F&M) 1400m (23/12) Blue Hope 3f (Discover Diamonds by Marscay) Scottsville 4 Maiden Plate (F&M) 1200m (24/12) **BYWORD** (Peintre Celebre) Kentucky Boy 3c (Glorious Mamba by Parade Leader) Greyville 1 Maiden Plate (Polytrack) 1000m (22/12) Secret Messenger 3c (Secret Fort by Fort Wood) Greyville 3 Qualified Maiden Plate (Polytrack) 1400m (22/12) Shifting Shadows 3f (Lineal Factor by Dynasty) Turffontein 4 Maiden Plate (F&M) 1160m (23/12) Speak Soon 3f (Woodland Spirit by Fort Wood) Turffontein 6 Maiden Plate (F&M) 2000m (23/12) Steam On 3f (Chatanooga Chuchu by Cataloochee) Kenilworth 9 Maiden Plate (F&M) 1200m (23/12) **CRUSADE** (Mr Greeley) Epic Sword 3c (Silver Moon by Model Man) Greyville 1 Maiden Plate (Polytrack) 1000m (22/12) Delta Knight 3c (Alpha Carina by Carnegie) Greyville 3 Qualified Maiden Plate (Polytrack) 1400m (22/12) Joking Dice 3f (Slew per Jet by Jet Master) Fairview 8 MR 60 Handicap (F&M)(Polytrack) 1300m (22/12) Calladdi 3c (Carina Coleman by The Sheik) Greyville 10 Barrier Trials (Polytrack) 1000m (22/12) Divine Connection 3c (Platinum Ice by Western Winter) Turffontein 3 Maiden Plate 1160m (23/12) Wheels Are Up 3c (Aquitaine by Al Mufti) Kenilworth 3 Workriders Maiden Plate 1400m (23/12) Jaunita 3f (Perakeen by Rakeen) Turffontein 4 Maiden Plate (F&M) 1160m (23/12) Cantata Mundi 3f (Onda Punk by Punk) Turffontein 6 Maiden Plate (F&M) 2000m (23/12) Empress Adelaide 3f (Liste Secrete by Peintre Celebre) Scottsville 4 Maiden Plate (F&M) 1200m (24/12) Ascalon 3f (Pashley by Count Dubois) Scottsville 8 Maiden Plate (F&M) 1950m (24/12) **EIGHTFOLD PATH** (Giant's Causeway) Celtic Sunrise 3c (Cape Sunset by Fantastic Light) Greyville 1 Maiden Plate (Polytrack) 1000m (22/12) **IRISH FLAME** (Dynasty) Ira 3f (My Vow by National Assembly) Kenilworth 3 Workriders Maiden Plate 1400m (23/12) **MARCHFIELD** (A P Indy) March Affair 3f (Wild Liasion by Captain Al) Fairview 5 Novice Plate (F&M)(Polytrack) 1900m (22/12) Close To My Heart 3f (Roxie Heart by Dynasty) Fairview 8 MR 60 Handicap (F&M)(Polytrack) 1300m (22/12)



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## SIGNPOSTS

Blue Streak 3c (Blingsta by Damascus Gate) Greyville 10 Barrier Trials (Polytrack) 1000m (22/12) Barking Irons 3c (Tropical Dance by Luhuk) Scottsville 7 Maiden Plate (3 Year Olds) 1950m (24/12)

#### **ORATORIO** (Danehill)

Love Talk 3f (Lovey Dovey by Model Man) Fairview 4 Maiden Plate (F&M)(Polytrack) 1600m (22/12) Graduate 3c (Varsity Queen by Var) Greyville 6 MR 66 Handicap (Polytrack) 1600m (22/12) Torio Lake 3c (Purple Lake by Lake Coniston) Greyville 6 MR 66 Handicap (Polytrack) 1600m (22/12) Burano 3c (Bandera Nativa by Bernstein) Turffontein 3 Maiden Plate 1160m (23/12) Ensemble 3f (Esoteric by Mogok) Turffontein 4 Maiden Plate (F&M) 1160m (23/12) No Mans Land 3c (Fort Sylvia by Fort Wood) Turffontein 10 MR 71 Handicap 1160m (23/12) Victor Victorio 3c (Victoria by Albert Hall) Scottsville 3 Maiden Plate 1200m (24/12) Aldo's Chase 3c (Sermonize by Strike Smartly) Scottsville 3 Maiden Plate 1200m (24/12) Leisure Lady 3f (Essenelles by Encosta de Lago) Scottsville 4 Maiden Plate (F&M) 1200m (24/12)

#### **TWICE OVER** (Observatory)

Three Times A Lady 3f (Monyela by Fort Wood) Fairview 4 Maiden Plate (F&M)(Polytrack) 1600m (22/12) Good Lord Padmore 3c (Fire Tread by All Fired Up) Greyville 10 Barrier Trials (Polytrack) 1000m (22/12) Mighty And Magic 3c (Strategic Quest by Rainbow Quest) Turffontein 3 Maiden Plate 1160m (23/12) Doublemint 3c (Nepeta by Tale of the Cat) Kenilworth 4 MR 80 Handicap 1400m (23/12) WHAT A WINTER (Western Winter) Lady Lisha 3f (Miss Symphony by Kabool)

Greyville 4 Qualified Maiden Plate (F&M)(Polytrack) 1400m (22/12) What A Winner 3c (Bella Diva by Eli's Star)

*Kenilworth 6 Need For Speed Sprint (3yo's)(Non-Blacktype)* 1000m (23/12)

### **On The Double**

Highlands Stud's resident sire, and Irish champion, Pathfork dominated early proceedings at Kenilworth on Saturday. Distorted Humor's Gr1 winning son was responsible for both Township Melody, winner of the first race, and Bid Before Sunset, successful in the second race on Cape Guineas day. Both 3yo fillies are trained by the in-form Justin Snaith.

Klipdrif Stud's young stallion Elusive Fort also enjoyed a smart double at Scottsville on Sunday. The Equus Champion's second juvenile runner of the season, Dean Kannemeyer's Good Buddy, scored impressively on debut while the Dennis Bosch-trained Shadow Catcher romped to a nine and a half length win over 1200m on the same afternoon.

Elusive Fort has eight lots on offer at the 2018 Cape Premier Yearling Sale, including a half-sister to Gr1 Sun Met hope Last Winter (#4). Pathfork has a filly, whose five winning siblings include Listed Golden Loom Handicap winner Doing It For Dan (#179).

### **Notable Maiden Winners ELUSIVE FORT**

Rated AR 74 Shadow Catcher (3c Saratoga Shadow by Al Mufti) Maiden Plate (3yo's) Scottsville (1200m) (17/12)

Sent off a strong favourite at 18/10, Dennis Bosch's charge was soon up handy. He was ridden to lead going through the 400m, and cruised clear from there onwards to score by nine and a half. In truth Shadow Catcher didn't beat the strongest of fields here, but he couldn't have done the necessary more easily than he did and is bound to be better than rated.

### **Horses To Follow** SILVANO

Rated AR 89 Simply Royal (4f Royal Fantasy by Al Mufti)

MR91 Handicap Turffontein (stand side) (1400m) (16/12) Now a winner of three from six, Sean Tarry's charge was having only her second outing since May. Confidently ridden by Raymond Danielson, Simply Royal sat fourth some nine lengths off the pace set by her stable companion (the favourite) Redberry Lane. She quickened in good style over the final 400m and with the rest well beaten, won going away from her stable companion by over a length.

#### 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.

#### Winners Bred Abroad another AUSHORSE winner

Without Permission (AUS) 6g Rock of Gibraltar-Lacrimosa(NZ) (O'Reilly)

Fairview 1400m (11/12)

#### another AUSHORSE winner

Tamashi (AUS) 4f Fastnet Rock- Unusual Choice(AUS) (Redoute's Choice)

Fairview 1600m (11/12)

#### another AUSHORSE winner

Raya Baya (AUS) 3f Hussonet-Military Band(AUS) (General Nedivm)

Kenilworth 1600m (12/12)

#### another AUSHORSE winner

**Overdose** (AUS) 3g All Too Hard- Gayika(AUS) (Galileo) Fairview 2400m (15/12)

### Winner Bred Abroad - Overdose

All Too Hard, sire of last Friday's Fairview winner Overdose, was Australian Champion 3yo colt of 2012/13 and second to his outstanding half-sister Black Caviar in the Horse Of The Year awards that season. He was also rated the equal highest 3yo colt in the world.

Racing in the Mayfair Speculators silks, the promising stayer Overdose (Aus) broke his maiden with a four-length victory, Stretching out to 2400m for the first time, he let down under jockey Aldo Domeyer for an easy win as a long odds-on favourite.

Overdose (3g All Too Hard – Gayika by Galileo) is trained by Candice Bass-Robinson. He was bred by Kia Ora Stud and was a bargain A\$25,000 buy at the 2016 Inglis Classic Sale.

His dam Gayika is an Australian-bred daughter of Galileo and is a full sister to 2011 July Handicap winner and local champion, Igugu.

Robinson has given Overdose plenty of time to mature. He raced twice at two and resumed this season in a sprint before gradually getting out over longer distances at Kenilworth.

"He was very green and babyish earlier this year," she recalled. "He needed a few runs before featuring this season and we saw a much-improved effort over 2000m in October.

"We knew he would be finishing strongly again and he enjoyed the longer run-in on Friday."

On Sunday, All Too Hard unearthed another genuine prospect for the \$10 million Magic Millions Raceday at the Gold Coast.

His filly Sasso Corbaro returned to racing with an explosive first up victory in the McGraths Hill Florist Hcp (1100m) at Hawkesbury. Trainer Kris Lees was going to start her first-up at Canterbury on Friday night but decided Hawkesbury was a better option.

Camped on the speed by Corey Brown, she gapped her rivals by three lengths clocking the last 600m in 32.95s. It was a second faster than any other final sectional on Sunday.

Lees had sent Sasso Corbaro for a break after an effortless victory at Newcastle in July when Brown made a far-sighted prediction. "She's a lovely, lovely filly and will furnish into stakes grade filly when she returns from a spell."

She's on-track to fulfil that forecast in the \$2 million Magic Millions 3YO Guineas-RL (1400m) next month.

China Horse Club bought Sasso Corbaro from Mill Park for A\$290,000 at the 2016 Gold Coast Magic Millions. She is from Morphettville winner Furline (Tale Of The Cat) who was also placed in a Nitschke Stakes.

There are 33 All Too Hard yearlings catalogued for the Magic Millions Sale starting on January 10. His first two crops have been very popular on the Gold Coast selling to \$510,000 in 2016 and \$600,000 in 2017.

### **Bitter Rivals**

Real Madrid vs Barcelona | Sat 23 Dec | Santiago Bernabeu Stadium | 14:00



Real Madrid host their bitter rivals, Barcelona at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in a crucial La Liga encounter this Saturday. Other than giving your fans a Christmas present by beating your enemy,

this match will have serious repercussions on Los Blancos' title hopes. A win for Zinedine Zidane's men would somewhat keep them in contention and a defeat would pretty much mean kissing their title hopes goodbye. The Catalans will be content with a draw away to the defending champions as it would keep them 11 points clear off them.

#### To catch up with Benedict Ngwenya previews CLICK HERE

#### TO WIN

Real Madrid 21/20 Draw 29/10 Barcelona 43/20

#### **REAL MADRID**

The defending champions have started their La Liga season poorly which sees them occupying an unfamiliar fourth place, 11 points off the pace with a game in hand. A win would keep their title hopes alive while a defeat could extinguish them. Their talisman, Cristiano Ronaldo has been phenomenal in the UEFA Champions League and the FIFA Club World Cup but his La Liga campaign which was marred by a five-game ban at the start of the season hasn't been quite convincing. He's only got four league goals to his name so far.

Los Blancos will be buoyed by heading into this one off the back of a triumphant Club World Cup campaign which sealed a club record of five trophies in a calendar year for the club.

#### BARCELONA

Barcelona are riding the crest of the La Liga wave with zero defeats since the season started. Lionel Messi is unplayable this season, having found the back of the net on 14 occasions and assisted a further five strikes. It's also interesting to note that the visitors have kept clean sheets in all their recent three league matches. Last week they were ruthless against Deportivo de La Coruna whom they thumped 4-0. In that match, Messi just couldn't score, rattling the frame of the goal three times and having a penalty saved.

The table toppers are expected to once again target La Liga's alltime most sent off player, Sergio Ramos who has earned five red cards against them. Ramos, who can sometimes be erratic must be very careful against the likes of Luis Suarez and Messi who can take advantage of that with their diving and provocative antics.

PREDICTION: Barcelona Win & Both Teams to Score (32/10)

#### CLOCKWATCHING WITH STEVE FURNISH

# A Tough Call

A REVIEW OF THE WEEK'S BEST SPEEDRATINGS

#### **On The Right Road Greyville 10 December**

Trainer Louis Goosen has been in fine form since relocating to KZN and he was again on the mark here when the improving CAPTAIN'S GIRL won the feature event, a MR104 Handicap. In what proved to be the fastest of the afternoon's four 1200m events, the lightly weighted daughter of Noordhoek Flyer led throughout. She was always a couple clear and despite the efforts of the top weight Muscatt, she didn't relinquish an inch of her advantage.

The only other distance on the nine race program to stage more than one race was 2000m where the faster of the two maiden events was the boy's affair won by TOP CLASSMAN. Sent off third in the betting market at 5/1, Frank Robinson's charge was always handy. He ran on strongly at the business end of the race and in a three way finish he got the verdict by a half.

A maiden plate over 1200m had gotten proceedings underway and here we saw a comfortable victory for the uneasy favourite COSSACK GUARD. Allowed to ease out to 18/10 from 11/10 at the track, this grey son of Gimmethegreenlight was soon positioned close to the speed. He was ridden to lead shortly after passing the 300m marker and comfortably accounted for the always handy KING'S COM-MAND by a length and a quarter. The poorly drawn newcomer SAND PATH ran on well from towards the rear in this race.

**Titbits** Now a winner of two from three, ON THAT BOULEVARD showed a nice turn of foot in the latter stages when winning the MR86 Handicap over 1200m.

#### Weighted To Win Fairview 11 December

The best bet on the card for most at Monday's turf meeting was ALGHADEER in the opening pinnacle stakes over 2400m, and the Dynasty gelding didn't let down his supporters. Thrown in at the weights, Grant Paddock's charge was content to sit at the back of the five for most of the journey. He sauntered up to the leaders as they approached the 200m marker and without ever really being asked to race, he won going away by two and a half.

Two of the afternoon's eight races were staged over 1000m and by far the fastest of these was the MR64 Handicap won by the 4yo LA GRAND ROUGE. Sent off favourite at 4/1, the Western Winter gelding raced up with the speed throughout. He kept on strongly at the business end of the race and comfortably accounted for the easy to back FLYING ROCK (also raced up with the speed) by a length and three quarters.

They also ran two races over 1600m and in the faster time the former Cape Town campaigner LEADMAN completed a quick double. A winner over 1400m in the maiden ranks last time out, Tara Laing's charge was soon up handy. She was ridden to lead shortly after passing the 300m pole and kept on strongly late to fend off a determined challenge from SEATTLE SWING by a neck.

Titbits Having her first start since relocating from Cape Town, MARCH AFFAIR came from the rear when getting off the mark in the maiden plate over 2000m. Trainer Yvette Bremner spoke very well of this one after the race.

#### **Unbelievable Odds Kenilworth 12 December**

A maiden plate for the girls over 1000m got proceedings underway in Cape Town on Tuesday and here we saw an impressive performance from the Brett Crawford trained VICE VERSA. Having only her second career outing here, this 3yo daughter of Var was very quickly two lengths clear. She kept on strongly over the final 400m and won without any anxious moments by two and a quarter.

Two of the afternoon's eight races were run over 1200m and the quickest home in these was SUN AT MIDNIGHT when winning the MR81 Handicap. Sent off joint third in the betting market at 9/2, the Elusive Fort mare raced at the back of the seven during the early part of the race. Less than four lengths covered all though and when given rein she quickly made headway. She struck the front going through the 100m and won well by a length from SASSY LADY (also came from the rear).

The only other distance to stage more than one race was 1600m where the faster of the two handicaps was the MR71 affair in which UNBELIEVABLE CHAD caused a major upset. Freely available at 28/1 on the off despite

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

1		. won 28/1
	Unbelievable Chao	WUII 20/ 1
	UIIDEIICVable	won 13/2
	Unbelievable char March Affair Lucky Lulu	
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	LUCKY LUIG	won 5/1
	Dromedaris	
	TRNING T	
	Sun At Midnight Torre Del Oro	won 7/2
	Torre Del Uro	
I		
	Green Fairy	won 18/10
	Cossack Guard	won 18/10
	00004-11 -	

#### **Top speed ratings** for this weekend

(Ratings shown have already been adjusted to allocated weights)

#### FAIRVIEW (FRI)

Race 1: (1) Klawerkate 10 Race 2: (2) Don't Let Me Down 20 Race 3: (9) Seattle Spell 46 Race 4: (7) Love Talk 8 Race 5: (1) Minds Eye 27 Race 6: (7) Captain's Vista 45 Race 7: (7) Rippit Whippet 37 Race 8: (9) Night At The Proms 36 Race 9: (1) Boldly Respectable 46 **GREYVILLE (FRI)** 

Race 1: (4) Great Dictator 30 Race 2: (11) Penultimate 62 Race 3: (1) Prince Ponti 14 Race 4: (1) Fonteyn 14 Race 5: (1) Strategic Move 55 Race 6: (12) What A Scorcher 38 Race 7: (14) Willowgrange 38 Race 8: (2) Honest Prince 26

#### **TURFFONTEIN (SAT)**

Race 1: No Qualifiers Race 2: No Qualifiers Race 3: (3) Over Easy 24 Race 4: (1) Ensemble 25 Race 5: (15) Sky High 20 Race 6: (4) Let's Twist 16 Race 7: (5) Sylvan On Fire 78 Race 8: (14) Sussex 31 Race 9: (1) Pure Blonde 75 Race 10: (5) KIngiftheworld 38

#### **KENILWORTH (SAT)**

- Race 1: No Qualifiers Race 2: No Qualifiers Race 3: (7) Rebel's Burst 10 Race 4: (6) Doublemint 59 Race 5: (5) Fire Walker 45 Race 6: (10) Shufoog 70 Race 7: (7) Power Grid 89
- Race 8: (4) Brave Move 57 Race 9: (3) Above Eleven 8

#### SCOTTSVILLE (SUN) Race 1: (10) To Woo 10

- Race 2: (1) London Call 94 (NAP\*) Race 3: (10) King's Command 27 Race 4: (1) Alraune 16 Race 5: (1) Dark Moon Rising 48 Race 6: (8) Wealthy 69 Race 7: (3) Bear Hug 3
- Race 8: (6) Maris Stella 6

Nap bets \* Fancied \*\* Strongly fancied Very strongly fancied

#### CLOCKWATCHING CONT.

now racing off a mark some 24 points below that of his former best, the top weight was always in touch with the leaders. He ran on strongly at the business end of the race and in what proved to be a real thriller he got the verdict on the nod over the well-supported outsider IN THE JUNGLE.

**Titbits** The 4yo BARONESS MARY came from the back when registering her third career victory in the MR74 Handicap over 2000m.

Lightly raced RAYA BAYA fairly flew late on when getting up in the very last stride to deny PRINCESS VICKY in the MR68 Handicap over 1600m.

#### Springing Into Action Turffontein 12 December

A pinnacle stakes topped the bill on the old stand side track on Tuesday evening and in what not surprisingly proved to be the faster of the two 1160m races, the 5yo Querari gelding KANGAROO JACK bounced back to form. Positioned alongside ANGEL'S POWER in midfield when the race began in earnest, Gary Alexander's charge ran on stoutly over the final 400m and together with that one all the way to the wire, he only got the verdict by a short head.

The faster of the two 1000m races was the MR89 Handicap in which the nibbled at FREELY FOREVER registered her fourth career victory. She got away well when the gates opened and soon up handy raced prominent throughout. She put her head in front approaching the 200m pole and kept on strongly late to beat the running on NO MORE WORDS by a length and a quarter.

They also ran two races over 2400m, the faster of which was the middle stakes won by the Bankable mare PARISIENNE CHIC. Easy to back at 9/1 on the off, St John Gray's charge was always handy. She ran on strongly over the final 400m and with the rest some seven lengths adrift, she got up in the dying strides to deny the front running favourite DALLEY.

**Titbits** At the back 250m out after being baulked for a run, SHENANIGANS won the MR77 Handicap a lot more easily than the official margin of a length would suggest.

After running on from the backend of midfield, ICE ART won the MR70 Handicap over 1000m with a ton in hand.

#### Temperature Rising Greyville 13 December

Wednesday's action took place on the turf where the faster of the three 1000m races (taking into account the barrier trial) was the boy's division of the maiden plate won by MIGHTY MERCURY. Positioned fifth during the early part of the race, the son of Pathfork put his head in front 200m out, and after quickly drawing clear he went on to score by four and a half easing down.

The rather moderate bill was topped by a MR78 Handicap and in what proved to be the faster of the two 1400m races, DIAMANTE registered her third career victory. Freely available at 18/1 on the off, the poorly drawn daughter of Tiger Ridge was soon at the head of affairs. She kept on determinedly in the short home straight and in a race where less than a length separated the first four past the post, she got the better of the well supported favourite OSPREY close home.

The two 1600m races were both maiden plates and in the faster of these (the girl's affair) HIDDEN THOUGHT got off the mark. Taken straight to the front by Musi Yeni, the 3yo daughter of Lateral led throughout. She began to assert her authority early in the straight and eased late won very easily by three.

**Titbits** After having to switch 150m out OBVIOUS CHILD was finishing best of all when just over a length third in the maiden plate for the boys over 1600m. **Notebool:** Horses worth following at their next few starts... ON THAT BOULEVARD (C Laird, KZN)

SHENANIGANS (S Tarry, Gauteng) VICE VERSA (B Crawford, W-Cape)

#### FASTEST TIMES

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

GREYVILLE (TURF) 10 DECEMBER	
Penetrometer 21 – Going Good	F7 70
1000m (1) Captain's Girl	57,78
1200m (4) On That Boulevard 70,8	
1600m (1) Legend	97,80
2000m (2) Top Classman	125,05
2200m (1) Hero Quest	136,71
FAIRVIEW (TURF) 11 DECEMBER	
Penetrometer 21 – Going Good	5644
1000m (2) La Grand Rouge	56,14
1400m (1) Without Permission	84,84
1600m (2) Leadman	98,44
2000m (2) Lucky Lulu	127,04
2400m (1) Alghadeer	150,29
KENILWORTH (NEW) 12 DECEMB	ER
Penetrometer 21 – Going Good	
Course Variant: 1,14s slow	
1000m (1) Vice Versa	59 <i>,</i> 97
1200m (2) Sun At Midnight	73,32
1400m (1) I Touch The Sky	88,47
1600m (2) Unbelievable Chad	100,82
1800m (1) Lady Sutton	114,18
2000m (1) Baroness Mary	126,94
TURFFONTEIN 12 DECEMBER	
Penetrometer 26 – Going G/Soft	
Course Variant: 1,55s slow	
1000m (2) Freely Forever	58,36*
1160m (2) Kangaroo Jack	68,06
1400m (2) Red Indy	88,37
1600m (1) Shenanigans	100,81
2400m (2) Parisienne Chic	157,50
2850m (1) Dromedaris	189,80s
<b>GREYVILLE (TURF) 13 DECEMBER</b>	
Penetrometer 24 – Going G/Soft	
Course Variant: 1,70s slow	
1000m (3) Mighty Mercury	60,19
1200m (1) Zadora	72,87
1400m (2) Diamante	85,56
1600m (2) Hidden Thought	100,64
1800m (2) Storm Ruler	111,89





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