



MET

Magic Moments

1978

Politician wins for Syd Laird and Bert Hayden, J&B come on board as sponsors with a stake of R50 000. It was an association that was to become one of the longest lasting in SA sporting history and would last until 2016.



1949 Milnerton stabled horses caught the train from Milnerton to Cape Town and then took the southern suburbs line to Wynberg, when racing at Kenilworth. Thorsum bucked the trend. He walked from Milnerton to Kenilworth on the morning of the race, duly won the Met, and then walked back.

1890

The tote is legalised in the Cape. On Saturday, a sum of R75 million will be wagered via Tab on the meeting.

1973

To bolster the interest and raise the standard, the Met is run for the first time at Weight-for-age plus penalties.

1979

In one of the most memorable finishes ever seen Politician becomes the first horse to win the Met in consecutive years. Racing again under top weight, the strapping chestnut colt, ridden again by Bertie Hayden, barged his way through from an impossible position to beat Festive Season and Beau Art.

1986

The race is run on the old course as the turf on the new course is being replaced. First time Met winner for Ralph Rixon, Wild West hits a career peak – but jockey Greg Holme drops his whip and causes near heart failure for the connections. Christie Blom runs second on High Honour. Interestingly, the fifth horse Symbolize, ridden by the late Gary Verne, was saddled by owner-trainer Greg Ennion – who still trains winners out of Milnerton 32 years later.

Three racing families dominated the Met over these years. The Lairds, Millards and Kannemeyers won the race 10 times between them. Syd Laird won it twice with Politician in 1978 and 1979 and Alec Laird won it with London News in 1997. Terrance Millard won it with Arctic Cove in 1983, Mark Anthony in 1988 and Olympic Duel in 1991 while his son Tony Millard won it with Empress Club in 1993. The Kannemeyer team, Peter and son Dean, won the J&B Met with Sunshine Man in 1980 then with Divine Master in 1992 and with Pas De Quoi in 1994.

1978 – 1994



Terrance Millard

Peter Kannemeyer

2002

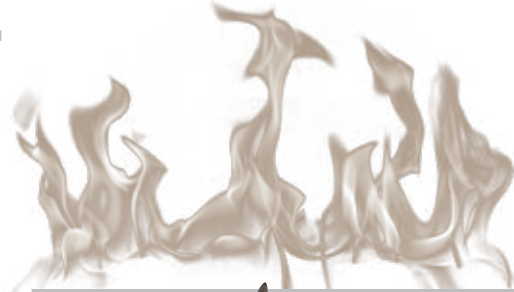
As a social function the J&B Met is renowned throughout the country and had become so popular that the gates of Kenilworth racecourse had to be closed midway through the afternoon and the 'house full' signs went up. More than 50 000 people had crammed into the picturesque venue.

2000

Over 130 cars parked in the Wetton Road parking area were destroyed by a fire. The source of the fire is thought to be a cigarette.

1986 & 2004

The Met has been postponed twice - once in 1986 due to equine flu, and once in 2004 as a result of African Horse Sickness.



2017

Sun International commence their sponsorship and the first Sun Met is won by Australian-bred Whisky Baron for Greg Cheyne & Brett Crawford.



WAYNE MARTIS

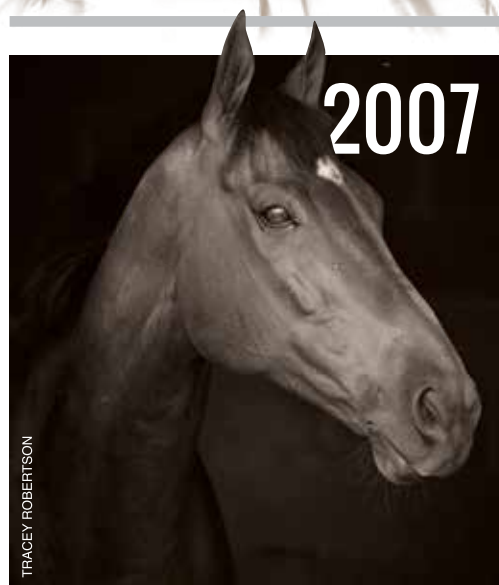
2018

The race is run at pure weight-for-age for the first time and attracts a capacity field – the first in 24 years.

2007

2009

Only one horse has won the Met three years in a row. Jet Master gelding Pocket Power, trained by Mike Bass, won the race in 2007, 2008 and 2009. The same blue, white and pink silks will be worn by Marinaresco on Saturday. The Silvano gelding is trained by Mike's daughter Candice, for lucky owner Marsh Shirliff and partners – which includes the now retired Mike Bass.



TRACEY ROBERTSON