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Thursday 4 January 2018

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RACING THIS WEEKEND

KENILWORTH Friday
Best Roving Banker:
R5-(3)Talk Of The Town(3/1)

GREYVILLE poly Friday
Best Roving Banker:
R9-(4) Viking Red (4/1)

SCOTTSVILLE Saturday
Best Roving Banker:
R4-(5) Imagine That (5/2)

KENILWORTH Saturday
Best Roving Banker:
R6-(7)Gimme Six(3/1)

TURFFONTEIN Sunday
Best Roving Banker:
R9-(6) Mario Lanza (1/1)

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Sunday 31 December
Greyville– race 8
Sporting Post
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Warrior's Stone
WON 18/1 ☺

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WHO Will Lead?

They say 'pace makes the race'.

Saturday's 157th running of the R1,5 million Gr1 L'Ormarins Queen's Plate is hardly likely to fall into the grip of the infamous 'Cape Crawl'. A champion jockey who rode the first of his two winners in the famous mile over forty years ago suggests that the Kenilworth summer course will once again prove itself to be the fairest mile in the country.

"It's a Gr1 race. They are not going to hang around and play games. There are a few in the line-up that can go up and make the pace. Besides the fact that he is the proven top horse in the race, I believe that Legal Eagle's versatility and ability to go up with them or relax further back in running makes him a tough nut to crack tactically. And what we have seen previously is that he doesn't just stay on in front – he gives that killer kick in the final stages," says retired champion rider Garth Puller, who won the Queen's Plate in 1976 on Sledgehammer for Fred Rickaby and again in 1980 on the brilliant Over The Air for Peter Kannemeyer.

In his day, Garth says they didn't have the luxury of the summer course, with its longer run-in and he points out that this is an important factor in making the Kenilworth 1600m the fairest mile in the country.

"No quarter is given in a race of this nature but knowing that he has the long home straight to get

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WHO WILL LEAD?

out of trouble allows a jockey more time to get into a better position – or overcome any small errors out of the stalls. Naturally, it is still vital that you have the horse under you," he adds.

He recalls that both Sledgehammer and Over The Air were top class and said that ordinary horses don't tend to get lucky in the Queen's Plate.

"I won both my Queen's Plates coming from off the pace. It was the way I preferred to ride. And I missed a few along the way too. We only raced on the winter course with its short run-in those days and sometimes – not often, thankfully- we ran out of track when rattling late."

Garth wouldn't differentiate or rate either of his winners above the other.

"Both were very different- but both were top horses in every sense. Sledgehammer won the race twice – Muis Roberts rode him in 1975. I was aboard at all 19 of Over The Air's wins. Every Gr1 win is special to the jockey, owner and trainer involved. Looking back now, it would not be fair to say one was more special than the next."

So what happens on Saturday?

"It's not rocket science. Legal Eagle is the title holder. Twice SA Horse Of The Year. Top man in Anton Marcus aboard. He is a worthy favourite. But he is a 6yo now and, while he may be better than them, he is not improving. And there are a few top stables with decent runners, who no doubt believe they can topple the champion. That's what makes racing great. We love to see the star win. But there can also be great romance when a new younger lesser vaunted challenger steps into the fray."

Garth says two young horses in the race are worth keeping an eye on.

"I would like to have seen African Night Sky with another run under the belt but he did gallop, I believe. I see Justin (Snaith) also has It Is Written in the race. They may want to make it a hard run race – which sort of indicates they could have African Night Sky quite fit. He is probably more of a Met horse though. Then Gold Standard is another good 4yo that catches the eye. He ran a great race in the Met. He has enjoyed a quiet prep and Richard (Fourie) is riding at the top of his game. If the Eagle's feathers are to be ruffled, it could be by one of these two."

And Mike Azzie's Hat Puntano?

"He deserves his place but he has yet to show he can take on a horse like Legal Eagle. I see Mike is travelling down on Friday. I recall his Grandpa's great horse Elevation - Mike was still in primary school then. I won the 1974 Holiday Inns on Elevation and Sledgehammer ran third - we were giving 9,5 kgs to the Sledge. A month later in the Met, I was seeing the dollar signs on Elevation at the 300m marker but Sledgehammer came sailing past us – in receipt of only 3,5kgs this time - and beat us over 2 lengths. While Elevation loved Turffontein, I ascribed that turnaround to the fact that Fred Rickaby had settled Sledgehammer in Cape Town , while Elevation had travelled and arrived the day before. Road and air travel can take the edge off them. But I wish Mike and his patrons well."

Written In The Stars?

Jono Snaith has confirmed that the PE-based It Is Written, who like African Night Sky, is owned by Fred Crabbia, is running in the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate as a gesture of acknowledgement and support to Eastern Cape racing. He is one of four runners from the powerful Snaith Racing Team.

WEEKEND RACING

A Royal Eagle

Gr1 L'Ormarins Queen's Plate Kenilworth

Legal Eagle bids for a third straight Gr1 L'Ormarins Queen's Plate success on Saturday and, bar the pressure of the public expectation and money riding on his athletic back, the son of Greys Inn could face his softest test to date in Africa's premier weigh-for-age mile.

Legal Eagle | *Wayne Marks*

A champion miler in every respect with seven wins from seven starts over 1600m, Legal Eagle comes into Saturday's contest with every block ticked and it is easier finding something to run second than to beat him.

Captain America ran second beaten 2,25 lengths last year and while he won the Gr1 Gold Challenge last term, he is a 7yo and was well beaten by Legal Eagle in the Green Point Stakes.

Sail South ran a 3 length third last year and is another who looks well held. The top class son of Sail From Seattle – like his stablemate Captain America a 7yo – also picked up a big win last term, courtesy of the Gr1 Champion Stakes in KZN but was well beaten in the Green Point Stakes.

Marinaresco ran fourth and 3,30 lengths back last year. The son of Silvano won the July under a big weight and is high-class. But was well beaten in the Champion Stakes and his Merchants prep – his only outing this season- told us less than little. He has plenty of ability but has been a tough horse to stay loyal to. He could surprise!

Lightly raced Cape Merchants winner Silicone Valley ran a 4,55 length fifth behind Legal Eagle in this race last year. The 7yo son of Jay Peg is as honest as the day is long and jumps from the pole position draw. He strips fit and will be running at them late.

Mike Azzie brings the Charity Mile and international Gr1 winner Hat Puntano to the Mother City for his fourth start in South Africa. There is nominal comparison between the opposition he encountered with his Turffontein Gr2 success and what the son of Hat Trick meets here.

Trainer Glen Kotzen's 2016 Selangor Cup winner Gold Standard has been brought along slowly with two respectable fourth placed feature efforts this season.

Cape Winter Series champion African Night Sky has had just one start this season – a 1,75 length fifth placed finish in receipt of 1,5kgs behind Edict Of Nantes over a too short 1400m.

The 2016 Listed Jet Master Stakes winner Fifty

Gr1 Queen's Plate
past winners

2015		
1	Futura	60.0 (9) 6/1
2	Louis The King	60.0 (4) 5/1
3	Gold Onyx	60.0 (1) 33/1
2016		
1	Legal Eagle	60.0 (8) 7/1
2	Legislate	60.0 (6) 4/1
3	Noah From Goa	55.0 (9) 6/1
2017		
1	Legal Eagle	60.0 (3) 13/20
2	Captain America	60.0 (8) 28/1
3	Sail South	60.0 (5) 66/1

START 4:40PM KENILWORTH **7** **PA5/PICK SIX4/JACKPOT3**
Gr1 L'ORMARINS QUEEN'S PLATE 1600M
SAME TRAINER:(2-4)(9-10-11-12)

Greys Inn	1	**LEGAL EAGLE***(SG Tarry)* **A Marcus**	2	**60.0**
Captain Al	2	**CAPTAIN AMERICA***(BJ Crawford)* **C Orffer**	9	**60.0**
Silvano	3	**MARINARESCO***(C Bass-Robinson)* **A Domeyer**	4	**60.0**
Sail From Seattle	4	**SAIL SOUTH***(BJ Crawford)* **G Cheyne**	8	**60.0**
Hat Trick	5	**HAT PUNTANO***(MG & AA Azzie)* **G v Niekerk**	10	**60.0**
Trippi	6	**DEO JUVENTE***(GV Woodruff)* **C Murray**	7	**60.0**
Trippi	7	**GOLD STANDARD***(GS Kotzen)* **R Fourie**	11	**60.0**
Jay Peg	8	**SILICONE VALLEY***(GR Puller)* **D Dillon**	1	**60.0**
Dynasty	9	**AFRICAN NIGHT SKY***(J Snaith)* **B Fayd'herbe**	5	**60.0**
Royal Air Force	10	**COPPER FORCE***(J Snaith)* **L Hewitson**	12	**60.0**
Trippi	11	**FIFTY CENTS***(J Snaith)* **P Strydom**	3	**60.0**
Dynasty	12	**IT IS WRITTEN***(J Snaith)* **B May**	6	**60.0**

WEEKEND RACING

Cents gets the services of Piere Strydom and jumps from a nice draw. While he is in prime form – having won his last two handicap starts in convincing fashion – Fifty Cents looks to have plenty to do.

Last of the Justin Snaith quartet is the Dynasty 7yo It Is Written, who has been campaigning with limited success in the Eastern Cape.

It is difficult to look past Legal Eagle and if he turns up his usual industrious self he will be difficult to peg back. He can run off any kind of pace and is versatility personified.

Gold Standard has not found his best stride yet this season and it would be foolish to overlook the boom expectations of him as a 3yo. Sail South and Captain America are always thereabouts, while the still improving African Night Sky should be snapping at their heels.

Bieber's Royal Rap

Justin Snaith holds the ascendancy in pure numbers as he saddles four of the 12 runners in Saturday's L'Ormarins Queen's Plate.

The man coined 'Bieber' by his multi-champion colleague Mike de Kock – who in turn has been tagged 'Meatloaf' by the cheeky younger Justin – started out with just 22 horses in 2000 and has only won the prestigious mile once in 17 seasons, that included a SA Championship title.

Snaith won the Queen's Plate in 2012 when the brilliant Piere Strydom got Hassen Adams' outstanding Australian-bred Gimmethegreenlight up to beat the champion Variety Club. While Gimmethegreenlight is carving a career for himself as a sire in the illustrious Varsfontein paddocks in Paarl, and Hassen Adams doesn't have a runner this year, Justin and Piere are back for more – this time with Caroline Rupert's Trippi gelding, Fifty Cents, who we doubt was named after the popular rapper.

The 5yo, the only supplementary entry, is in prime form, having won his last two starts – and would be a shock winner on any given Saturday.

But what, we wonder, are Justin's plans with It Is Written in the bigger scheme of the race? Time will tell. It could be interesting.

A Royal Family

Gr1 Paddock Stakes Kenilworth

Mike de Kock's top-class Tiger Ridge mare Nother Russia gets a golden opportunity to emulate her illustrious Mum when she steps out in her maiden Cape start in Saturday's Cartier Gr1 Paddock Stakes.

Gr1 Empress Club Stakes winner Nother Russia showed her match readiness with a well taken win in the Gr2 Ipi Tombe Challenge at home five weeks ago . She has settled in well in the Cape where the De Kock yard reports that the beautiful chestnut is loving the beach. She has plenty in her favour, including her favourite man Craig Zackey in the irons. How appropriate that she follows her champion Dam and gives Mike de Kock his next Paddock Stakes win?

Mike Robinson's Goodtime Gal is probably at her best over 200m shorter and stopped late in the Victress Stakes when beaten 2.40 lengths into fourth. She ran eighth behind Bela-Bela in this race last year but has improved this season and is very capable of running into the places here.

Majorca Stakes winner Nightingale ran on well for third and under two lengths behind Star Express in the Victress Stakes. The Silvano mare – there are five daughters of the champion sire in the field- was hampered when running a cracking fourth behind Bela-Bela last year and from a similar gate can go very close again.

The Gr3 Final Fling Stakes winner Silvan Star has not drawn too smartly but is a mare who likes to race at them late and regular partner Richard Fourie can overcome that negative. She will prefer the 1800m after running on steadily at her last start.

First of the Snaith trio, the Gr2 Daisy Fillies Guineas winner Gimme Six has run two excellent prep races and does not know how to run a poor race. She gets the service of Bernard Fayd'herbe and can turn the tables on her Diana Stakes conqueror Goodtime Gal. She is another deserving of a Gr1 win.

Juvenile Gr1 winner Lady In Black has not been herself and has failed to

Gr1 Paddock S.
past winners

2015		
1	Inara	54.0 (13) 20/1
2	Athina	59.5 (9) 12/1
3	Jet Belle	60.0 (7) 14/1
2016		
1	Smart Call	59.5 (4) 33/10
2	Inara	59.5 (13) 8/1
3	Bela-Bela	54.0 (1) 5/1
2017		
1	Bela-Bela	60.0 (6) 9/10
2	Safe Harbour	54.5 (2) 9/2
3	Silver Mountain	60.0 (3) 6/1

START 4:00PM KENILWORTH **6** **PA4/PICK SIX3/JACKPOT2**
Gr1 PADDOCK STAKES (F&M) - 1800M
SAME TRAINER:(1-9)(2-11)(4-7-16)(6-12)(13-14)

Tiger Ridge	1	**NOTHER RUSSIA** *(MF de Kock)* **C Zackey**	10	**60.0**
Silvano	2	**NIGHTINGALE** *(C Bass-Robinson)* **A Delpech**	8	**60.0**
Silvano	3	**SILVAN STAR** *(GS Kotzen)* **R Fourie**	13	**60.0**
Silvano	4	**STAR EXPRESS** *(J Snaith)* **C Murray**	15	**60.0**
Royal Air Force	5	**GOODTIME GAL** *(M Robinson)* **M Byleveld**	11	**60.0**
Ideal World	6	**LOUISIANA** *(BJ Crawford)* **C Orffer**	14	**60.0**
Gimmethegreenlight	7	**GIMME SIX** *(J Snaith)* **B Fayd'herbe**	9	**59.5**
Elusive Fort	8	**SAFE HARBOUR** *(SG Tarry)* **A Marcus**	7	**59.5**
Silvano	9	**ORCHID ISLAND** *(MF de Kock)* **JP vd Merwe**	16	**59.5**
Silvano	10	**WIND CHILL** *(JA Soma)* **G Lerena**	12	**59.5**
Gitano Hernando	11	**WHOSE THAT GIRL** *(C Bass-Robinson)* **A Domeyer**	3	**59.5**
Sail From Seattle	12	**SEATTLE GOLD** *(BJ Crawford)* **G Cheyne**	2	**59.5**
Horse Chestnut	13	**THE HIGH LIFE** *(DR Drier)* **D Dillon**	1	**59.5**
Dynasty	14	**LADY IN BLACK** *(DR Drier)* **S Veale**	6	**54.0**
Western Winter	15	**FRESNAYE** *(J Ramsden)* **P Strydom**	4	**54.0**
Street Cry	16	**OH SUSANNA** *(J Snaith)* **G v Niekerk**	5	**54.0**

fire in two starts this season. The daughter of Dynasty stayed on quietly for fourth behind Snowdance in the Cape Fillies Guineas and with a decent draw may be worth including in quartets.

Surprise Victress Stakes winner Star Express has drawn in the Youngsfield Military Base but overcame a similarly poor gate last time.

Anton Marcus takes the ride on Sean Tarry's Safe Harbour. The daughter of Elusive Fort was scratched from her intended engagement in the Victress Stakes three weeks ago with an abscess. She lost her form prior to that and looks held by Nother Russia – although she has experience of the Kenilworth track and is another who appears to enjoy the Cape.

Second of the Mike de Kock duo, the Silvano mare Orchid Island comes in fresh off a slightly disappointing Summer Cup effort when she stayed on one-paced for sixth and just over 3 lengths behind Liege.

An open weight-for-age contest and a prestigious and sought after prize in the SA stud book! Nother Russia can clock up her second Gr1 success and she is the selection to hold Nightingale, Silvan Star and the very decent Gimme Six. Include Lady In Black in bigger perms.

Power Of The Paddock

Maine Chance Farms, who sponsored South Africa's leading 1800m weight-for-age race for fillies from 2013, have committed to continue their support of our racing but have stepped aside to allow the international fine jewellery company Cartier to take over the sponsorship of the Gr1 Paddock Stakes from Saturday.

Cartier came on board as a co-sponsor of the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate in 2016 and also sponsor the Gr2 Sceptre Stakes, which is run on day one of the festival, as well as the Gr3 Politician Stakes. This is the only event sponsored by Cartier in Africa.

The first running of the Paddock Stakes was won by Sun Lass. She became a hugely influential broodmare, whose descendants include July winner Yataghan, and champion fillies In Camera and Consensual.

In 1976 the race was won by Party Time. A top-class racemare who also won the Cape Fillies Guineas, Party Time became one of the tap root mares in the South African stud book. Her descendants include July winner Trademark, SA Oaks victress Lambarina, as well as Gr1 winners Let's Rock 'n Roll, Morisco and Fillies Guineas winner Sally Bowles.

During the 1970's and 1980's, the Paddock Stakes was dominated by champion trainer Terrance Millard, who won the race on 16 occasions- most notably with champions Taima Bluff, Olympic Duel and Tecla Bluff.

Four great fillies have won the Paddock Stakes. This illustrious group includes Country Cousin, Renounce, Night Bird and Olympic Duel. Among the great racemares on the roll of honour are Renounce, Tecla Bluff, Petrava, Crimson Palace and Dancer's Daughter.

In 2001 the David Payne-trained Hoeberg became the first Paddock Stakes winner produced by another Paddock Stakes winner, when she emulated her dam Petrava in winning the race. Who will be next to gallop into the history books?

Met Jets Set

Gr2 Peninsula Handicap Kenilworth

Whisky Baron won the R400 000 Gr2 Peninsula Handicap and went on to win the Sun Met last season. There are ten big race entries in the sixteen strong field on Saturday and we may yet see one of them put their name up.

Horizon, one of the Sun Met hopefuls, had a disappointing KZN season and has been very quiet in his opening two outings this season. Piere Strydom could be an inspired jockey choice for the son of Dynasty, who has been an overall disappointment.

His Matchem Stakes-winning stablemate Our Mate Art failed to match strides with champion Legal Eagle in the Green Point Stakes but was not disgraced when beaten 4 lengths. His Winter Classic effort behind African Night Sky suggests he may be quite effective.

Anthony Delpech and Dean Kannemeyer team up with the Philanthropist gelding The Slade, who has won his last three starts in good style. He could still be ahead of the handicapper and looks a fair prospect if he can overcome his draw.

Former Gr3 Byerley Turk winner Mambo Mime has had little luck on the health front but bounced back strongly to beat subsequent Premier Trophy winner Milton last time. If maintaining his form, the son of Mambo In Seattle can go on and realise his early promise. He runs off a 95 here, with a lifetime peak of 103.

Regular placegetter Ollivander has not won in ages but did stay on for fourth in the Premier Trophy. A one-time winner, he is always a quartet inclusion but lacks the killer punch where it counts. Richard Fourie could well change that!

Former top 2yo Eyes Wide Open has failed to find any form in this term and he comes off a well beaten ninth in the Selangor Cup. Regular pilot Richard Fourie has also deserted him.

Krambambuli ran on powerfully after a longrest to be beaten 3 lengths by Milton in the Premier Trophy and meets the Prestage galloper on a kilo better terms but has to overcome a wide draw.

Premier Trophy giantkiller Milton has been acknowledged by the handicapper for his last great effort and he has a major task at these weights. The son of Lateral is a dogged galloper and if he can overcome his wide draw, can make a bid for place money.

Dual Algoa Cup winner Nebula may have needed the run when beaten 5 lengths by Milton in the Premier Trophy. The son of Silvano tends to be sparingly raced and his form is a touch in-and-out.

Our Mate Art, The Slade and the improved again Mambo Mime look serious contenders in a tricky handicap. Eyes Wide Open and Krambambuli could be best of the rest.

Gr2 Peninsula Hcp
past winners

2015		
1	Arion	55.5 (8) 10/1
2	Power King	56.5 (10) 4/1
3	Night Trip	58.5 (6) 40/1
2016		
1	Light The Lights	55.0 (9) 10/1
2	Milton	52.5 (6) 14/1
3	Deo Juvente	58.5 (15) 7/1
2017		
1	Whisky Baron	59.0 (4) 16/10
2	Milton	57.5 (14) 35/1
3	It's My Turn	60.0 (5) 5/1

START 3:25PM KENILWORTH **5** **PA3/PICK SIX2/JACKPOT1**
Gr2 PENINSULA HANDICAP - 1800M
SAME TRAINER:(1-5-6-11-12)(4-7-15)(9-10)

Black Minnaloushe	1	**KRAMBAMBULI** *(J Snaith)* **B Fayd'herbe**	13	**60.0**
Lateral	2	**MILTON** *(WG Prestage)* **G Lerena**	15	**60.0**
Silvano	3	**NEBULA** *(BJ Crawford)* **D Dillon**	9	**59.0**
Artie Schiller	4	**OUR MATE ART** *(C Bass-Robinson)* **A Domeyer**	3	**57.5**
Silvano	5	**BLACK ARTHUR** *(J Snaith)* **C Murray**	1	**57.5**
Silvano	6	**ELUSIVE SILVA** *(J Snaith)* **G v Niekerk**	11	**57.0**
Dynasty	7	**HORIZON** *(C Bass-Robinson)* **P Strydom**	4	**56.0**
Encosta De Lago	8	**MAC DE LAGO** *(WH Marwing)* **M v Rensburg**	2	**56.0**
Philanthropist	9	**THE SLADE** *(D Kannemeyer)* **A Delpech**	12	**54.0**
Mambo In Seattle	10	**MAMBO MIME** *(D Kannemeyer)* **M Byleveld**	7	**54.0**
Silvano	11	**PLATINUM PRINCE** *(J Snaith)* **G Cheyne**	5	**53.0**
So You Think	12	**TURBULENT AIR** *(J Snaith)* **- scratched**	14	**53.0**
Dynasty	13	**EYES WIDE OPEN** *(GS Kotzen)* **A Andrews**	10	**52.0**
Seventh Rock	14	**STONEHENGE** *(SG Tarry)* **L Hewitson**	6	**52.0**
Silvano	15	**OLLIVANDER** *(C Bass-Robinson)* **R Fourie**	8	**52.0**
Black Minnaloushe	16	**WAITING FOR RAIN** *(ELP Steyn)* **JP vd Merwe**	16	**52.0**

WEEKEND RACING

Friday On My Mind

Gr2 Sceptre Stakes Kenilworth

The R400 000 Gr2 Sceptre Stakes headlines the opening day of the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate Festival Of Racing and Joey Ramsden's 2016 Cape Fillies Guineas victress Just Sensual looks the one to beat.

Just Sensual | *Gold Circle*

The Sceptre Stakes is run at weight-for-age plus penalties of 2kgs for a Gr1 win and a kilo for a Gr2 success.

Southern Cross Stakes late finisher Just Sensual carried a 2kg Gr1 penalty last time when her class got her home over the 1000m. Ramsden keeps the blinkers on and she will be even more effective over the 1200m on Friday. Anton Marcus is bang in form and knows her well.

Hoist The Mast was narrowly beaten in the Southern Cross by Just Sensual and almost caused the upset of the year off her modest 78 merit rating. She now runs off an 83 and her style of racing looks to be suited to a late burst over the extra 200m.

The 2017 Sceptre Stakes winner Live Life bounced back to form with a strong finish in the Southern Cross Stakes to be beaten just 0,8 lengths into third, with the benefit of a new bit fitted.

Her younger stablemate Magical Wonderland should enjoy the reversion to the sprints after two fair efforts in the Western Cape Fillies Championship and the Cape Fillies Guineas. She can well bounce back here.

Dennis Drier's smart Var flyer Sommerlied failed to reproduce her Listed Laisserfaire Stakes win when finishing just under two lengths behind Just Sensual last time. Sommerlied's worst ever run was over 1200m and she is best watched for now – although she is the Scottsville 1000m record holder and loaded with talent.

SA Fillies Nursery winner Green Plains has her third run after a layoff and was cramped and fell away to nothing in the Southern Cross Stakes. She looks much better than that and is worth another chance.

Just Sensual is a confident choice to maintain her good form and she can win again. There is likely to be a scramble for the places with Live Life, Magical Wonderland and Green Plains to main players.

Gr2 Sceptre Stakes
past winners

2015		
1	Cold As Ice	56.5 (2) 9/20
2	Double Whammy	56.5 (3) 8/1
3	Lanner Falcon	60.0 (7) 12/1
2016		
1	Princess Royal	54.5 (2) 8/1
2	Cosmic Light	55.5 (9) 12/1
3	Cuvee Brut	58.0 (3) 7/1
2017		
1	Live Life	54.5 (1) 22/1
2	Carry On Alice	60.0 (11) 1/1
3	Beach Goddess	58.0 (5) 7/1

START 4:00PM Kenilworth — **7**

PA6/PICK SIX5/JACKPOT4
Gr2 SCEPTRE STAKES (F&M) - 1200M
SAME TRAINER:(1-14)(2-5-9-15)(3-7-12-17)(6-13)(10-11)

Dynasty	1	**JUST SENSUAL***(J Ramsden)* **A Marcus**	12	**60.0**
Captain Al	2	**JO'S BOND***(J Snaith)* **B Fayd'herbe**	11	**59.0**
Trippi	3	**LIVE LIFE***(C Bass-Robinson)* **G Cheyne**	4	**59.0**
Var	4	**SOMMERLIED***(DR Drier)* **S Veale**	17	**58.0**
Windrush	5	**NORDIC BREEZE***(J Snaith)* **M Byleveld**	6	**58.0**
Black Minnaloushe	6	**ANNELINE***(GS Kotzen)* **C Zackey**	8	**58.0**
Noordhoek Flyer	7	**FELICITY FLYER***(C Bass-Robinson)* **R Khathi**	18	**58.0**
Querari	8	**HOIST THE MAST***(A Nel)* **D Dillon**	10	**58.0**
Philanthropist	9	**WESTON***(J Snaith)* **C Murray**	3	**58.0**
Gimmethegreenlight	10	**GREEN PLAINS***(SG Tarry)* **L Hewitson**	7	**55.5**
Mambo In Seattle	11	**DESERT RHYTHM***(SG Tarry)* **C Orffer**	1	**55.5**
What A Winter	12	**MAGICAL WONDERLAND***(C Bass-Robinson)* **A Domeyer**	5	**54.5**
Captain Al	13	**PRINCESS PEACH***(GS Kotzen)* **R Fourie**	13	**54.5**
Gimmethegreenlight	14	**ROSE IN BLOOM***(J Ramsden)* **M Seidl**	15	**54.5**
Querari	15	**ANGEL'S TRUMPET***(J Snaith)* **G v Niekerk**	16	**54.5**
Star Witness	16	**SHUFOOG***(MF de Kock)* **JP vd Merwe**	14	**54.5**
Fort Wood	17	**SCANDOLA***(C Bass-Robinson)* **- reserve 1**	2	**58.0**
Foxwedge	18	**QUICK BROWN FOX***(BJ Crawford)* **- reserve 2**	9	**58.0**

A Royal Road

Gr3 Chairman's Cup Kenilworth

Full marks to Weiho Marwing who travels down from the North with the very capable Let It Rain. He must be thinking he's landed in Disneyland – there's R250 000 up for grabs in the Gr3 Chairman's Cup and one of his 6 opponents is an MR 72 rated one-time winner.

Let It Rain | *JC Photos*

Three of the balance have forgotten how to win. That just leaves local powerhouses Justin Snaith and Brett Crawford standing in the visitor's way.

Let It Rain ran a poor race in the Summer Cup but pulled up lame after the Gr1 and he reverts to a staying handicap – which is far more his game. The Listed Java Handicap winner ran good places in all the serious staying races last term and if Marco van Rensburg can keep his head out front, this one looks a massive runner.

Justin Snaith has a trio of runners including last year's runner-up Ovidio. The son of Danehill Dancer carries a hefty 63kgs and has not been himself since failing to enjoy the conditions in KZN last season. The fact is that he stays well and is the class in the race.

Master's Eye ran a better race last time when chasing Kinaan home in the Kenilworth Cup over the course (old track) and distance. But the son of Jet Master is three months short of being three years without a win. That's worrying!

Piere Strydom was aboard Snaith's third string Captain Splendid when he won the Lonsdale Stirrup Cup last season and the son of Captain Al is a bit in and out – but stays well and runs for Striker.

Brett Crawford's Our Emperor is the youngest and most progressive horse in the race. He ran on strongly for second in the Cape Summer Stayers last time and also chased Red Peril home in the Settlers Trophy. The son of Dynasty looks overdue to win a stakes race and Saturday could be his moment off his handy 52kg galloping weight,

The Dynasty progeny should dominate and we are leaning towards Let It Rain to beat Our Emperor, with Captain Splendid making up the trifecta.

Gr3 Chairman's Cup
past winners

2015		
1	Coltrane	60.0 (2) 18/10
2	Gone Baby Gone	52.5 (4) 8/1
3	Shingwedzi	57.0 (5) 28/10
2016		
1	King Of Pain	60.0 (5) 8/1
2	Three Balloons	52.0 (3) 11/2
3	Coltrane	59.5 (4) 11/20
2017		
1	Banner Hill	52.0 (8) 5/1
2	Ovidio	62.5 (9) 11/2
3	My World	52.5 (7) 11/2

START 2:50PM KENILWORTH — **4**

PA2/PICK SIX1
Gr3 CHAIRMAN'S CUP - 3200M
SAME TRAINER:(1-2-4)

Danehill Dancer	1	**OVIDIO***(J Snaith)* **B Fayd'herbe**	1	**63.0**
Captain Al	2	**CAPTAIN SPLENDID***(J Snaith)* **P Strydom**	4	**57.0**
Dynasty	3	**LET IT RAIN***(WH Marwing)* **M v Rensburg**	3	**57.0**
Jet Master	4	**MASTER'S EYE***(J Snaith)* **G v Niekerk**	6	**56.0**
Ideal World	5	**MY WORLD***(C Bass-Robinson)* **M Byleveld**	5	**53.0**
Dynasty	6	**OUR EMPEROR***(BJ Crawford)* **G Cheyne**	2	**52.0**
Elusive Fort	7	**WOODLAND'S FOREST***(Burger/van Reenen)* **B May**	7	**52.0**

The full cards for Weekend Racing with ratings & tips can be purchased here

WEEKEND RACING

Politics Of Power

Gr3 Politician Stakes Kenilworth

The R250 000 Cartier Politician Stakes serves as a Derby Trial and is run on benchmarked weights according to merit rating.

Ancestry carries topweight and gets the blinkers removed after a quiet run in the Selangor Cup where he finished out of the money and 5 lengths behind Rocket Countdown. The Avontuur-bred galloper just missed a Gr1 and Gr2 as a 2yo and it can only be a matter of time before he finds his form. On breeding he should go every inch of this trip and rates the one to beat.

His stablemate Big Pleasure was runner-up to subsequent Cape Guineas star Tap O'Noth in the Langerman last term and he has shown a liking for the increased ground with two smart running-on efforts in recent starts. The son of Horse Chestnut gets the blinkers fitted.

Mike de Kock's Dynasty colt Big Parade has his third run in the Cape and could be ready to launch a big effort after two promising places. This well-bred fellow found the rampant Made To Conquer too strong in a 2000m handicap but stays well and looks nicely in.

Kenilworth Winter course 1800m winner Opera Royal failed to stay on in the Premier Trophy when made a lot of use of and fading to finish just under 4 lengths off Milton. That's fair form in that company.

The Sun Also Rises stepped up in ground to 2000m and won his post-maiden start like a horse going places. The son of Trippi is held by Orakal on earlier form but appears to have improved smartly recently and has a strategic jockey booking in Piere Strydom.

Justin Snaith's Doublemint has won twice from 6 starts and gets stepped up in trip and into feature company. The son of Twice Over is highly regarded and must go into all calculations.

The lightly raced Run Red has produced two smart post-maiden efforts and his strong finishing course-and-distance effort last time suggests he could have a say here in receipt of weight from the big guns.

There are a few promising unexposed sorts in the field, but Ancestry has the Graded race form to suggest that he has both the class and ability to give weight and a beating to this lot. He can book his Derby ticket with a big run.

Gr3 Politician Stakes
past winners

2015		
1	The Conglomerate	55.0 (3) 28/10
2	MLjet	58.0 (6) 7/2
3	Arniston	55.0 (9) 10/1
2016		
1	Black Arthur	57.0 (9) 3/1
2	Marinaresco	55.5 (6) 7/1
3	Liege	57.0 (3) 20/1
2017		
1	Horizon	60.0 (4) 3/4
2	Newlands	60.0 (1) 3/1
3	Ollivander	57.0 (5) 15/1

START 5:20PM KENILWORTH — **8**

PA6/PICK SIX5/JACKPOT4
Gr3 POLITICIAN STAKES (3YO'S) - 1800M
SAME TRAINER:(1-2)

Oratorio	1	**ANCESTRY** *(J Ramsden)*	**B Fayd'herbe**	3	**60.0**
Horse Chestnut	2	**BIG PLEASURE** *(J Ramsden)*	**D Dillon**	4	**57.0**
Oratorio	3	**OPERA ROYAL** *(GS Kotzen)*	**R Fourie**	2	**57.0**
Gitano Hernando	4	**STEEL ROSE** *(GR Puller)*	**P Botha**	1	**57.0**
Visionaire	5	**VISIGOTH** *(SG Tarry)*	**L Hewitson**	5	**55.5**
Dynasty	6	**BIG PARADE** *(MF de Kock)*	**A Delpech**	9	**55.5**
Twice Over	7	**DOUBLEMINT** *(J Snaith)*	**G v Niekerk**	7	**55.5**
Trippi	8	**THE SUN ALSO RISES** *(AE Sands)*	**P Strydom**	10	**55.5**
Oratorio	9	**ORAKAL** *(M Robinson)*	**M Byleveld**	8	**55.5**
Twice Over	10	**RUN RED** *(A Nel)*	**A Domeyer**	6	**55.5**

In The News

Gr3 London News Stakes Turffontein

The Gr3 London News Stakes tops the feature billing at Turffontein on Sunday where past SA Triple Crown winner Abashiri will be fancied to get back in to the winner's enclosure after a long absence.

Mike Azzie has harboured great hopes of a return to glory for his one-time star 3yo but things have not worked out according to plan.

Rested for nine months after a poor effort in the 2017 L'Ormarins Queen's Plate, Abashiri was targetted to win the Sansui Summer Cup, but things didn't pan out as planned. He finished eighth and just over 4 lengths behind Liege and was reported coughing afterwards.

Gavin Lerena takes the ride from a good draw on Sunday and he may have most to fear from Sean Tarry's Matador Man and the improved again French Navy.

This race is named in honour of the great London News whose record-breaking victory in Hong Kong's Gr1 Queen Elizabeth II Stakes in 1997, was as big an event for South African racegoers, as the Springboks' World Cup victory was in 1995.

As a five-time Gr1 winner, he gave weight and draw to the whole field, and he broke the Sha Tin track record. The Alec Laird trained champion also won The Classic at Turffontein, the Daily News 2000 and the July at Greyville, as well as producing an astonishing performance in the J&B Met.

Gr3 London News
past winners

2015		
1	Killua Castle	60.0 (7) 22/10
2	Sabadell	59.0 (6) 15/2
3	Judicial	60.0 (3) 7/1
2016		
1	French Navy	60.0 (1) 1/3
2	Killua Castle	58.5 (2) 12/1
3	Flying The Flag	57.5 (7) 16/1
2017		
1	Romany Prince	56.5 (3) 16/10
2	Deo Juvente	59.0 (1) 18/10
3	Samurai Blade	56.5 (2) 5/1

START 3:45PM TURFFONTEIN — **7**

PA5/PICK SIX4/JACKPOT3
Gr3 LONDON NEWS STAKES - 1800M
SAME TRAINER:(1-11)(4-8)(5-9)(6-10-12)

Teofilo	1	**BRAZUCA** *(JAJ v Vuuren)*	**Wei Marwing**	7	**60.0**
Kahal	2	**ROMANY PRINCE** *(OA Ferraris)*	**K De Melo**	11	**59.0**
Judpot	3	**CORAL FEVER** *(RR Sage)*	**M Yeni**	8	**59.0**
Go Deputy	4	**ABASHIRI** *(MG & AA Azzie)*	**G Lerena**	2	**58.0**
Count Dubois	5	**FRENCH NAVY** *(SG Tarry)*	**R Danielson**	9	**58.0**
Jet Master	6	**MASTER SWITCH** *(GV Woodruff)*	**S Brown**	13	**58.0**
Admire Main	7	**THE ELMO EFFECT** *(GM Alexander)*	**P Strydom**	1	**58.0**
Windrush	8	**AMSTERDAM** *(MG & AA Azzie)*	**JP vd Merwe**	12	**58.0**
Toreador	9	**MATADOR MAN** *(SG Tarry)*	**L Hewitson**	3	**57.5**
Mogok	10	**PAGODA** *(GV Woodruff)*	**M v Rensburg**	10	**57.5**
Silvano	11	**GIRL ON THE RUN** *(JAJ v Vuuren)*	**D Mansour**	6	**56.5**
Judpot	12	**BI POT** *(GV Woodruff)*	**C Murray**	5	**55.0**
High Chaparral	13	**CASCAPEDIA** *(MF de Kock)*	**A Delpech**	4	**55.0**

Top SA Attack For DWC Carnival

The Brett Crawford-trained Gr1 Sun Met winner Whisky Baron is amongst the thirteen South African horses accepted for the 2018 Dubai World Cup Carnival, which gets underway at Meydan Racecourse on Thursday January 11, 2018.

The major influence from South Africa on the Carnival will, as often is the case, come from the yard of Mike de Kock. His twelve strong string includes 2017 Gr1 South African Derby winner Al Sahem, Gr1 winning warrior Sanshaawes and Gr1 winning 2017 Gr2 Zabeel Mile runner-up Noah From Goa.

The list features 132 accepted horses with the intention to ship from 15 countries, including 14 Gr1 winners from many points of the globe.

Several international stars are set to travel to Dubai this winter to compete for a share of the US$10,870,000 prize money.

See the full list here

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Met Countdown - Now Weeks Away!

There are just under four weeks to the Cape's flagship, the R5 million Gr1 Sun Met which will be run at Kenilworth on 27 January.

The last chance for connections to get a run closes at 11h00 on Monday 8 January, where a final supplementary entry costs R37 602, of which R15 040 is non-refundable in the event that the horse does not make the final cut.

The original 31 entries currently stand their ground and a maximum field of 20 can run. While there are the inevitable marginal candidates amongst the entries, the Brett Crawford trained Edict Of Nantes looks an unlikely starter, having been sold to Hong Kong.

There have also been question marks against dual SA Horse Of The Year Legal Eagle, also sold out of the Mayfair Speculators stable, but it would make no sense for the son of Greys Inn not to go for the rich Met prize. His part-owner Braam Van Huyssteen has suggested though that 'there are other avenues available'.

Hollywood currently have Legal Eagle priced at 3-1, with Dean Kannemeyer's boom 4yo Last Winter at 9-2. Edict Of Nantes is listed a 'doubtful starter'.

The big race weights will be published on Monday 8 January.

Final declarations are due at 11h00 on Monday 15 January – that costs connections R45 600 but is refundable if not invited to run.

Announcement of the Final Field is on Monday 15 January.

The public gallops have been dropped from the race conditions.

The barrier draws will be done at the Kenilworth racemeeting, coincidentally rescheduled for France Galop, on Thursday 18 January.

Champion Owner Title Wide Open

With a big month of Gr1 racing ahead in the Cape this month and six months left of the season on the Highveld and KZN after that, the Equus SA Champion Owner title looks likely to change hands for the first time in a decade at the end of the current racing season.

The unbundling of Markus Jooste's title holding Mayfair Speculators, who have earned close on R5 million in stakes to date and currently lead their nearest rivals, the Rupert family's Drakenstein Stud, by some R3,3 million, opens the way for a new champion owner for 2017/18.

The powerful Drakenstein Stud, who are represented by a host of leading contenders at the two-day L'Ormarins Queen's Plate Festival Of Racing this weekend, must be leading contenders for the title- but the playing field is a far more level and competitive one sans the Mayfair Speculators behemoth, and there are other players that will be in the running.

These include Sabine Plattner, Mario Ferreira, Mauritzfontein Stud, as well as the Honourable Gillian and Alec Foster, who enjoyed a prolific Cape Guineas day recently.

Leading Sean Tarry patron and Kenilworth Racing Chairman Chris Van Niekerk is just below the Fosters on the table, with St John Gray, the Hyperpaint Syndicate (Nom: Mr G T Peter) and KZN based Roy Moodley further down the log.

A big player could also be the new Legal Eagle partnership, that includes long-standing owner Braam van Huyssteen. The dual SA Horse Of the Year could well win three or four Gr1's in the next few months – starting with the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate on Saturday.

DIGEST DIARY

Features To Come

Fri 5 Jan	**Gr2 Sceptre Stakes** (F&M) 1200m Kenilworth (S)
	(L) Jamaica Hndcp (F&M) 2000m Kenilworth (S)
Sat 6 Jan	**Gr1 Queens Plate** 1600m Kenilworth (S)
	Gr1 Paddock Stakes (F&M) 1800m Kenilworth (S)
	Gr2 Peninsula Handicap 1800m Kenilworth (S)
	Gr3 Chairmans Cup 3200m Kenilworth (S)
	Gr3 Politician Stakes (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) 1600m Kenilworth (S)

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Recordbreaker Shows A Flicker Of Hope

Milnerton trainer Joey Ramsden surely had one of his New Year's resolutions fulfilled on the very first day of 2018.

Joey Ramsden

A decisive win at Durbanville on Monday by his recordbreaking yearling purchase Silver Coin would have been the tonic required to put a tough 2017 properly to bed for the charismatic Brit, and get his New Year rocketing.

Ridden by visiting German jockey Martin Seidl, who also had plenty of reason to smile as he broke the ice on his busman's holiday, Silver Coin hit the front early in the straight in the 1400m MR 72 Handicap to win going away.

First time in the blinkers and with his crown jewels removed, Silver Coin gave hint that he can yet go on and win his way through the ranks – even though this race is some way off the Gr1 goal envisaged by the high-powered partnership that race the good-looking athlete.

After winning impressively on debut over 1200m in April, Silver Coin was fancied to win the Langerman but flopped – and his first two starts as a 3yo didn't bode any better.

But the headgear and gelding have got his mind on the job, and it's difficult to imagine that such a well-bred handsome specimen can't go on from here. He should go a mile plus.

Silver Coin set a new South African record when fetching R6 million at the 2016 Cape Premier Yearling Sale. Bred by the Drakenstein Stud, the classically bred Silver Coin is a half-brother to 4 winners, including Gr2 Colorado King Stakes winner Halve The Deficit.

Bred on the same Silvano/Fort Wood cross as champion Marinaresco, Silver Coin is out of National Banker, a Gr3 Gold Bracelet winning half-sister to triple Gr1 winner Smart Banker.

This is the same family as European champions Minding and Vaguely Noble.

Is Your Royal Tale Wagging?

The L'Ormarins Queen's Plate Racing Festival on Friday 5th and Saturday 6th January is South Africa's most prestigious horseracing event.

A reminder to all of our seasoned writers and aspirant authors that to celebrate the occasion you are invited to write a factual related editorial and put yourself in line to win a trip for two to Glorious Goodwood. Literally, anyone can enter the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate Writer's Contest!

Content of between 1000 - 5000 words must relate to the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate Racing Festival at Kenilworth racecourse. The winner will enjoy a trip for two, including flights and accomodation to Glorious Goodwood in 2018, or to the 2019 L'Ormarins Queen's Plate Festival.

Entries should be sent to writerscontest@sportingpost.co.za by not later than 12 January 2018.

All entries will be acknowledged. And of course, the judges' decision is final.

Oh What A Fortune

He was expected to produce classic prospects and Met and July runners, but the progeny of the international stakes winner producing stallion Oratorio know no bounds and the son of Danehill produced his third 2yo winner of the season at Fairview on Wednesday.

A former European champion and triple G1 winner, Oratorio has three of the nine runners in Saturday's traditional Cape Derby Trial at Kenilworth. Gr1 runner-up Ancestry, promising two-time winner Opera Royal and the progressive Orakal make up the 'O' first SA crop trio.

His daughter Carlita won the first at Fairview by 8,25 lengths in the hands of Teaque Gould.

Bred by Piemonte Stud, she is out of the Point Given mare Auburn Annio, who produced the quick two-time winner Thrill Factor.

Owned by Ashley Fortune and trainer Alan Greeff and his wife Glennifer, Carlita was backed from 10's into short odds at the off and won as if the result was known.

A R35 000 KZN Yearling Sale graduate, Carlita picked up the R40 000 BSA Added Value Stakes Incentive Bonus as well as the R20 000 RA incentive.

Now retired former SA Champion jockey Andrew Fortune travelled from Johannesburg with his family to lead the winner in.

"I 'vloeked' (swore at) the jockey for 200m after he got left. Thank god I'm not a trainer! Her opposition didn't look great and she looked fat. But she won well,"he added.

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L'ORMARINS QUEEN'S PLATE

Guess Who's Coming To Kenilworth...

The scene is mid-November 2017.
It is the day of the 70th wedding anniversary of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip.
They are having a celebratory dinner at Buckingham Palace.

Seasoned racing journalist Dave Mollett placed a tape-recorder under the table...this is how the exchanges went.

The Queen: "So, Philip, what a milestone. To think it was as long ago as 1947 that we walked up the aisle. But, as usual, I suppose you've forgotten to get me a present."

Prince Philip: "That's where you're wrong, my dear. Not only have I remembered, but it is to do with your favourite pastime- horse-racing."

The Queen: "Well, you've never really cared for racing- you feel it's your duty to go to Ascot but I've never seen you place a bet- so, tell me more, I'm intrigued."

Prince Philip: "I got chatting to our racing manager, John Warren, and asked him if he had any ideas of a gift for you and he said: "Yes, you could go to South Africa for arguably their most prestigious race- the Queen's Plate. Apparently it was first run in 1860 during Queen Vic's reign and- after all- we are great, great grandchildren of hers. I thought we could sail there on Queen Mary 2- romantic, don't you think?"

T**he Queen**: "Back to Africa- what memories. Remember we were together in Kenya in 1947 and then- five years later- I was in the same country when news came through that my father had died. I remember tossing and turning that night wondering if I was up to the task of being Queen."

Prince Philip: "You've answered that question all right- you have been a wonderful Queen and loved by so many around the world."

The Queen: "It's not like we have ignored South Africa- we were there to meet Nelson Mandela, a cheeky chappie who always called me "Elizabeth". I remember you very much enjoyed your trip to a Boer War battlefield. Mind you- the looks we got from some Afrikaners makes you think that hostility is in their blood forever."

Prince Philip: "Yes, our trips to South Africa have been pretty memorable, but this time I want you to completely relax and enjoy your racing which I know you love so much."

The Queen: "So, what exactly has John told you about the Queen's Plate- the name suggests royalty was involved from the outset."

Prince Philip: "Yes, so this is the 157th running and- according to John- they've tried to model the two-day meeting pretty much on Goodwood in July and the word is they've succeeded. You know Goodwood probably runs second to Ascot when it comes to being fashionably dressed and they make it pretty clear you better rock up looking smart. In fact, they have a strict dress code- you're expected to dress in blue and white. Not a problem, my dear, you can pull out that blue hat you wore on the second day of Ascot."

The Queen: "Really, Philip, what a suggestion. I'm sure the fashion writers in South Africa would spot it if I wore an old hat. I will, of course, get a new one."

Prince Philip: "John says this two-day racing festival has become an important date in their racing calendar due to the efforts of Johann and Gaynor Rupert. They're a famous family with a rich tradition - so much so that they're treated like royalty by their countrymen."

The Queen: "Just ensure that all I have to do is present the trophy- what a pity "Porchie" (former racing manager) isn't still with us. He'd know the ropes for our trip- he always was thoroughly reliable."

Prince Philip: "Don't get me on the subject of "Porchie"- you know it makes my blood boil. The newspapers here even said you had an affair with him- I know it's not true- if it had been I'd have sent you to the Tower myself. But I do remember you being so upset when he died in 2001- if I remember right it was the same day as the Twin Towers fell in New York. A double tragedy on one day."

The Queen: "Porchie" (the 7th Earl of Carnarvon) did his absolute best for us from the outset- I won't have a word said against him. So, you say we can sail to South Africa on Queen Mary 2- I thought it was now a luxury liner with hundreds of American and Japanese tourists."

Prince Philip: "That's right, it is. But I've used my connections and apparently there's a private suite on the top deck- only the Captain and some of the crew will know we're on board."

The Queen: "Tell me more about the race itself- it's sure to be run at Kenilworth, I know that's their number one course in Cape Town.

Prince Philip: "Well, John tells me it's named the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate- it's a Group One race, after all these years even I know that's for the very best horses. One of your trainers, Yorkshireman William Haggas, has strong ties with SA- if there wasn't such strict quarantine rules you could tell him to fly out one of your horses."

The Queen: "What a preposterous idea- most of my horses are Group Three horses, not Group One. But- as you know- I like a small wager so have they got a paper like our Racing Post which I couldn't do without."

Prince Philip: "In fact, John tells me they have a first-class racing publication- it's called the Sporting Post. Gives all the form with expert tips- you'll easily be able to work out the form."

The Queen: "Well, Philip, you have amazed me on this special date. The Queen's Plate here we come- another chapter in our visits to Africa."

L'ORMARINS QUEEN'S PLATE

Road to the L'ORMARINS QUEEN'S PLATE

Silicone Valley - Dream Big

As far as racing goes, the big horses that win the big races for the big names are all good and well, and in many ways, they maintain life's balance and prove that logic and planning and sound investment do pay off. And perhaps that is as things should be. However, if life – and racing - always followed the script, it would be very boring indeed, so I for one, am grateful they don't, because it is evidence of the very thing our industry is built on – hope and the fact that sometimes dreams do come true and that little guys with little horses do get to win big. And when they do, you get a little bit of magic.

Silicone Valley is the sort of horse that epitomises that magic in racing. He was bred by a Grooms Co-op, by a first season sire, out of a moderate mare and he didn't cost a bomb. He's not trained by one of our 'marquee' trainers and he's not owned by anyone particularly rich and famous. In fact, all those factors probably count in his favour, because had he been in a bigger yard, or belonged to bigger, more important people with bigger, more important horses, it is entirely possible he would have fallen by the wayside. But he doesn't and he hasn't and so, to borrow a phrase, 'we got ourselves a game'.

Lucky find

Ian Robinson and his wife Judy own Silicone Valley in partnership with Christian Bester, Francis Carruthers, Piere Fourie and Glen Puller. Silicone is from the first crop of Jay Pegs and is the last recorded foal from the Model Man mare, Prize Collection. He was consigned by a Grooms Co-op and sold c/o The Alchemy at the 2012 CTS Cape Premier Yearling Sale. Ian remembers, "We actually bought three horses at the same time. We pooled our money and split it across the horses and the same guys got involved in all three. Ken Martin was also initially involved, but he stopped racing, so Glen took his shares and that's why Glen's now involved."

As picking yearlings goes, it turned out to be a pretty smart selection as the team came home with Silicone Valley, Strongman and Skabenga – spending an even R150k on each. They democratically decided to run each of the horses in a different partner's colours, so Skabenga ran in Ian's silks, Silicone Valley in Piere Fourie's black and white colours and Strongman campaigned in the silks of Christian Bester.

Ian continues, "Skabenga we retired because he cracked a pedal bone, Strongman (now racing as Horse Of Fortune) turned into a very good horse and he's won R13 or R14 million in Hong Kong." The last of the trio is Silicone Valley, who possibly looked the least promising of the three, but has 6 wins from 20 lifetime starts. He has only finished outside the money twice in his career and has never finished more than 4.5 lengths back. In short, he's the sort of horse most people would give their right arm to own, but it hasn't been easy, meaning the rewards – when they do arrive – are all the more sweet.

Ups and downs

Karl Neisius rode Silicone Valley on debut over 1200m at Kenilworth and they won by the best part of 3 lengths. "Karl came back and said he was a bit sensitive on his front legs. He ran again and Karl rode him again and Silicone finished 3 lengths off, but out of the places. It was one of the few times he ever finished out of the money," notes Ian.

Upon investigation it was discovered that Silicone Valley had chipped both front knees. "We did a double op and from memory he was off for 9 months." Commenting that it's quite an investment in a one-time winner, Ian agrees but says that Karl had been instrumental. "He'd ridden Silicone and Strongman and felt Silicone was better. Also, with Glen's eye for horses, he convinced us that we should try and luckily there were enough of us to carry the burden."

A double procedure is major surgery though. "I'll never forget," muses Ian. "I think it was his first week – I went to see him and he was such a sorry sight. He had bandages on both front legs, he'd suffered a bout of colic and he had an abscess in his hoof – all of which happened within two or three days of his op, so he was taking major strain. It was sad to see him like that, but Glen's learned how to handle him." The team also opted for IRAP treatments, which entails drawing blood and treating it to create IRAP serum, which can be injected into the joints to treat inflammation.

The advice was sound and Silicone won first time back, beating Roaring Wind by 2.5 lengths on 29 October 2014 with Chris Puller in the saddle. He ran again on 31 January 2015, after which he chipped a knee again and required another op and another long break.

Hamish Niven

The full cards for Weekend Racing with ratings & tips can be purchased here

He was back in work by November 2015, finishing 2nd first time out, posting another win and then finishing 2nd to Heartland in the Jet Master Stakes in late December. Fortunately his 2016 and 2017 campaign has been a lot smoother.

"Although he's a 6 time winner, he's only had 20 starts – most of the time has been spent in his box with those damn knees," grimaces Ian. "As he's got older, he seems not to suffer as much. He does come back from races a bit sensitive, but within a few days he's alright again. Glen's very protective of him and is very careful with everything. When he runs, we run him away from traffic just to try and avoid any possibility of him getting hurt. It's probably counted against him winning more races. If you look at his record, he's run 12 places, many of which are 2nd and 3rd. He's been very unlucky, so that's why we were so happy when he won the Merchants, because he really deserved it."

Calm under pressure

The Gr2 Cape Merchants, run on Cape Fillies Guineas day on 2 December 2017, was a nerve-wracking one for the team as Anthony Delpech had been booked for the ride, but had to stand down after a medical emergency. It was shades of 2016 when the same stable and a very similar team of owners faced the same dilemma when Weichong Marwing was indisposed ahead of Illuminator's run in the CTS Million Dollar race. "If you recall, we only confirmed Heavelon just before 9am that Saturday morning," says Ian. Crises like these are the last thing one wants just ahead of a big event, but Ian just shrugs equitably in the best 'that's racing' manner.

Donovan Dillon had ridden Silicone in the 2017 L'Ormarins Queen's Plate, so he was selected for the Merchants ride. As with Illuminator, opting for someone that knows their horse well paid off and they beat Dutch Philip home by 0.75 length.

"Donovan will ride him in the Queen's Plate," confirms Ian, "but if we go to the next one, which is the Met, Donovan already has another engagement. Who knows, it's early days. He first needs to do the job in the Queen's Plate."

Ian and the rest of the owners are very hands on at the yard, making the success a real team effort. Silicone is treated with kid gloves, regular ice to keep his joints in good shape and frequent breaks to spell at Kim Bosman's Rodeo facility. It makes his success even more special as it comes with so much patience and dedicated care.

"The rest he had at Rodeo was really amazing," enthuses Ian. "Kim does a great job. It's so interesting – another horse of ours, Purple Mountains, had won over 1400m in Durban with Garth Puller last year, but hadn't won again since. We sent both horses to Rodeo for a break and both of them won their first run back off the farm. We were hoping to send Silicone to the farm again for a few days, but it would have interfered with his training schedule for the Queen's Plate."

Silicone Valley

Silicone Valley is an unprepossessing looking horse. He's a slight, mealy-muzzled, dark bay with the tiniest of white dots high on his forehead and no distinguishing markings to make him catch the eye. Yet one can't help being fond of him, because he is so genuine and never, ever runs a bad race. "Before the Merchants, both Judy and I said he looked dwarfed by the other runners, but he's such a wonderful horse," says Ian fondly. "We all love him to bits and think he is beautiful. He is so athletic and his gentle demeanour has endeared him to all. He knows what he has to do and he just goes out there and does his thing."

The L'Ormarins Queen's Plate is a tough ask, particularly against the might of Dual Horse of the Year, Legal Eagle. How do they feel about his chances? "Piet Botha does all the work on him and he's smiling. I have to say, he deserves a lot of credit- he's done a wonderful job. He's so sad he's not riding him, but his instructions to Donovan for the Merchants were spot on. Silicone comes on very quickly, so we're hoping for a big run in the Queen's Plate and he's certainly earned his place, but I think it's going to be very difficult. But he's very athletic and this guy has shown tremendous heart. He never lays down, he's just unbelievable."

Horses don't know how they're bred or what they cost, which is just as well, as races are run on the track, not on paper. And of course, because they can't read, horses don't know who they're running against, or how they are bred or what they cost either- and that's also just as well because defying the odds is probably easier when you don't know what they are.

So here's to ignoring the script and running anyway. Here's to little guys and little horses and winning big. Here's to hope.

Where Eagles Dare

Pippa Mickleburgh and the Avontuur team will be at Kenilworth on Saturday to support one of the greatest horses to come off the magnificent Somerset West stud and wine farm in thirty years.

Dual South African Horse Of The Year Legal Eagle first saw the light of day at Avontuur and he has proudly carried the champion breeder's banner in a career that has seen him earn close on R10 million.

"He is a once-in-a-lifetime horse and a dream on four legs! Sean Tarry astutely bought him for just R425 000 at the National Yearling Sale. He's the kind of horse a breeder looks back on and says –'hell we gave him away too cheaply!' But at the end of the day that is history and his success is the foundation that keeps the buyer coming back and tells anybody that it is possible to acquire a lifechanger for very reasonable money," says Pippa Mickleburgh.

When asked whether there is another Eagle in the wings, as it were, Pippa pointed us to her nine yearlings for the Cape Premier Yearling Sale on 20 and 21 January

"We have a great mix of new and proven in this draft. The Art of Winning is a combination of science and creativity and over the decades we've tried to make this dream a reality for Avontuur's many loyal supporters, owners, buyers and racing fans world-wide," she added.

"We're happy to support two first-season sires as an example, with Lot 183, a filly called White Lace by Flower Alley out of A Daughter's Legacy and Lot 67 (Seven Cape Winters), a filly by Soft Falling Rain out of Menorah".

White Lace is a half-sister to the talented Ancestry and the Gr2 winner, A Woman's Way. Ancestry is a son of Oratorio and runs in the Politician Stakes on Saturday. He has been labelled an Investec Cape Derby horse by trainer Joey Ramsden.

L'ORMARINS
QUEEN'S PLATE
2018
RACING FESTIVAL

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.

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LOUW FLYER

My Favourite Time Of The Year

Grab Your Blue & White

With so many of my favourite race days turning into a bit of a non-event, the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate is the one day (now two days - yay!) that never fails to deliver. Without exception it is well-planned and always executed to perfection with new and innovative touches incorporated year on year to keep it feeling fresh.

Also, with most of us still exhausted from the festive season exertions, it's pure indulgence to kick back and let someone else do the heavy lifting for a change!

I had a quick chat to Katherine Gray, who helps move most of the mountains behind the scenes, to tell us what's in store.

Planning

The Queen's Plate affords the peace of mind that you are in safe hands and that the emphasis is on offering you, the customer something, rather than the other way round, but that doesn't happen by accident. Katherine explains, "I think what people don't realise is that work on the 2018 L'Ormarins Queen's Plate started immediately after the 2017 L'Ormarins Queen's Plate. The team have worked incredibly hard, paying attention to detail, taking feedback – good and bad – and working it into our planning for this year's event."

The tried and tested elegant blue and white theme is something people take comfort from, but it also means a challenge trying to offer something different and something more every year. "It's a good challenge, a big challenge, but we try to always give people more than they expect."

Secrets to their success?

The inaugural L'Ormarins Queen's Plate famously started with a core of 40 guests and has grown organically. "The next year those 40 told two friends and it's grown by word of mouth. We don't pump money into a massive marketing exercise – it really is down to the people who come and invite new people every year. I think what people love about it – and it's such a South African thing- but you know you will bump into people you know. I think we're doing a good job because the same people are coming back. I think that's a testament to a job well done, but also to having loyal people. I really do put it down to the loyalty of those people who came 12 years ago and brought friends who brought friends – I really do think that's where we're different and it shows."

HAMISH NIVEN

"It's also a fantastic time of the year. The fact that we're so early in January means we get quite a few internationals and that adds a different element. Coming right off the back of the festive season, it's either the last Saturday before people go back to work or back to England, so the mood is very good. Everyone moves around quite freely. With other events, you need 50 different accreditations to even see a friend – this is much more relaxed in nature and that's how we set it up."

Celebrating Cape Town

In addition to the blue and white theme, the Queen's Plate has a light, playful feel to it, reflected in the generous flowers filling every nook and cranny, installations such as the carousel, the LQP lettering and the decorative bird feeders adorning the trees. "We're focussing on South African birds, which we think is quite different and also light and airy, again in keeping with the pretty, summer theme. It's all about paying attention to detail and making every corner look pretty using local, seasonal cut flowers and really trying to make it as South African, and more specifically, Capetonian, as we can. That goes across all levels – music, food, fashion, décor – everything. We want to support what is local – why bring in things from outside when we have such a high standard right on our doorstep?"

Last year incorporated a strong jazz theme, something Katherine confirms will be back again this year. "We feel it's something that's quite summery and as the event celebrates Cape Town and summer, it's a nice fit. We're doing a big push on jazz trios and quartets and we're having the Cape Minstrels again. They performed before the main race in 2017 and we're having them again this year. It's really entertaining, especially for locals that don't get to see 'Tweede Nuwejaar' in the City- and for those who do, it's a treat to see them in a different setting. For the international visitors, it's something that's quintessentially Cape Town."

Garden Party

2017 saw the introduction of a two day event, kicking off with a low key, relaxed garden party on Friday. There was champagne, there was sunshine and the 8 race card format worked really well as a dress rehearsal for the main event. Featuring good racing without too much pressure made it fun for the guys out on the track as well as for everyone on the ground. "We have to accustom people to the fact that it's racing over two days, but we were really pleased with how it went off," says Katherine. "Obviously it was small, but we're calm about that. The important thing was that the people who came, understood what we were trying to achieve. As the day went on, everyone in the building came out and sat out under the trees. It was just what we wanted."

MY FAVOURITE TIME OF YEAR

Your love is better than ice-cream

Friday was catered by way of a harvest table adding a relaxed, picnic feel and the soft serve ice-cream was one of my favourite features. "I think it puts you in a festive mood," agrees Katherine. "It's also quite South African and adds a beach, outdoors feel – all those things that make it a little more fun."

It is one of the many touches that have been added over the years and in addition to the ice cream, Katherine confirms that other favourites such as the strategically positioned champagne trolleys to save on standing in queues, as well as their signature ostrich egg cocktails will be back again.

L'Ormarins Moment

Every year, the organisers run the L'Ormarins Moment photography competition, but what are the organisers' favourite moments of the day? "My favourite thing is seeing the fruits of your labour. I always try to arrive at 6am on Saturday before anyone's there and just take a moment to stand back and see what the team has done. I try and take a few moments throughout the day to take a step back and look at everyone having a good time. As much as we put in the effort on the organising side, people who attend have also put in the effort to look beautiful. We've set the standard and people have responded, which I find rewarding."

"We have always tried to focus on the sport and it's also a good moment when you step back and see people appreciate the incredible sport that's on show and realise that it's not just a day in the sun with lots of wine. I'd say those are my things."

The Experience

Without sounding too 'marketing speak', the event has grown into one of the highlights on the Cape social calendar – across all ages as well as the usual barriers that we fence ourselves in with.

"We aim for something quite high end. I don't think there are many other events in other spheres in this country that offer an experience like the Queen's Plate. We pay a lot of attention to making everybody feel special – not just the ones that pay the most- and with the general public able to come in for free, it's accessible to everyone. That has always been very important to Gaynor," she stresses. "The way I explain it which makes perfect sense to me is that it's an exclusive day without being exclusive and that's what I really love. Usually at some point during the day people who are invited privately will walk through the different areas because they want to enjoy them, buy a drink or place a bet. Politicians, celebrities, everyone moves together and no-one's bombarded or treated differently, despite being hosted in different areas. I think the after party has been important in achieving that – it brings people together."

Bigger plan

"When Gaynor decided to do the sponsorship, as much as we wanted the event to be a success, it goes much further than Friday and Saturday. What we're proud of is that we've got an international race day. It really is to showcase the sport, but also the city, the country and everything that goes with it and ultimately to grow Kenilworth and to grow racing in Cape Town – that's our aim."

"We are so pleased when other race days get sponsorship – it makes our team happy. It's more than just our day and putting on something spectacular- which I do believe it is- but ultimately it about growing the whole industry and I think it's important that that remains at the heart of the planning."

So there you have it. There are only a few sleeps left. Grab your tickets via Computicket.

Even Eagles Attract VAT

The Braam van Huyssteen money will go on in earnest – no matter how short the price – when Legal Eagle attempts to win the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate for the third successive year at Kenilworth on Saturday.

Braam Van Huyssteen

Never mind the old adage that you shouldn't buy money by betting at odds-on, the superstar's new owner believes it would be an act of craven disloyalty not to support him with hard cash and plenty of it. "Absolutely," he insisted. "I have to back my horse. I know my mate Billy will back him and I have to as well."

My mate Billy is the Brisbane-based William Henderson whose advice the Bentley-driving Tekkie Town boss sought when he realised he was in with a chance of buying an equine legend.

"When all the bad news hit out there last month, I started to inquire – tongue in cheek really – about Edict Of Nantes and Legal Eagle," Van Huyssteen recalled. "I was told by Derek Brugman that all the horses would be up for sale.

"Listen," I said. "I would like to put my name in the hat for both of them. I didn't know what offers would be made but I knew there would be a lot of interest. Billy is a guy who knows about these things as well as being a good mate.

"He told me: 'Braam, here is an opportunity to buy a proven Group 1 horse. Let's go for it.' I also spoke to another mate of mine, Hedley McGrath in Port Elizabeth. He won a Group 1 with Copper Parade and he said much the same."

By this time Van Huyssteen had decided to whittle his purchasing ambitions down to just one of the two Markus Jooste stars. "It was my pocket that decided me – I'd lost a few bob of late and Edict Of Nantes was out of my reach. Even then I had to up my offer."

The price quoted on many websites was R3.2 million. Van Huysteen laughed. "Plus VAT," he corrected.

Seemingly, though, he gave no thought about the possibility of the horse recovering his purchase price in this month alone. "Not at all," he insisted. "It's not what you spend, it's that on a big day I will have the opportunity to win a Group 1. I have bought some 400 horses already in my life, hoping and dreaming, and maybe God will shine the light on me this time."

And the Met? Does he believe that Legal Eagle will make it third time lucky after finishing second in the last two years? Van Huysteen smiled as he acknowledged the question. "I have to be honest, I'm not a racing connoisseur like you guys. For me it's all about the Queen's Plate at the moment. Let's see how we go in that. After Saturday we can consider what comes next."

Michael Clower - www.goldcircle.co.za

Short Heads

L'Ormarins Queen's Plate
Royalty Rules

157

Saturday's race is the 157th running of Africa's premier weight-for-age mile

In The Beginning

The inaugural Queen's Plate was run in honour of Queen Victoria after she gifted a silver plate and 500 sovereigns to the South African Turf Club. It was staged as a heats event in April 1861, with the honours going to Cape Town owner Mr Chiappini's Dispatch.

King's Plate

After the death of Queen Victoria, it was run as the King's Plate during the reigns of Edward VII and George VI and then reverted to the Queen's Plate when Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II ascended the throne in 1952.

HONOUR ROLL

The mighty Sea Cottage, William Penn, In Full Flight, Yataghan, Sledgehammer, Politician, Wolf Power, international superstar London News, champion sire Jet Master and SA Horses Of The Year Winter Solstice (twice) and Variety Club, are a selection of past winners.

2005

L'Ormarins change the face of the race as new sponsors and turn the occasion into a magical blue and white celebration of high-class thoroughbreds and elegant fashion.

2014

Glorious Goodwood comes on board as the sponsor of the Gr2 Peninsula Handicap. The Glorious Goodwood Peninsula Handicap is a supporting feature to the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate - the only race in South Africa which grants its winner automatic entry to the Breeders' Cup.

2016

The inaugural L'Ormarins Queen's Plate Festival Of Racing is held over two days.

King of Queens

The undisputed King of the Queen's Plate - with 4 successive trophies from 2006 through to 2010- is the Mike Bass-trained Jet Master gelding Pocket Power. Jeff Lloyd rode him the first time, while Bernard Fayd'herbe was aboard for the next three. A book was written about the champion.

Marcus Magic

Anton Marcus, who rides favourite Legal Eagle on Saturday, bids for his fifth win in the prestigious mile in the past eight years. He was aboard Jet Master when the now deceased champion sire won the race in 2000 and the past SA Champion jockey won his first Queen's Plate on Empress Club a quarter of a century ago.

Royal DOUBLES DOUBLES

In the past half century, seven horses have won the race in consecutive years. Sea Cottage, Sledgehammer, Politician, Wolf Power, Jet Master, Winter Solstice and Legal Eagle. The latter goes for a rare hat-trick on Saturday.

ACCOLADE

In 2015, the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate was voted one of the top 5 race days in the world by the British Telegraph.

ROYAL IMPORTS

An eight-time Gr1 winner, 1993 winner Empress Club was a daughter of Farnesio out of the El Gran Capitan mare Elysee and was bred in Argentinia. Mike Azzie saddles another Argentinian-bred on Saturday in the Hat Trick colt, Hat Puntano. Imports have a low-key record in the race in the last fifty years. New Zealand-bred Take A Walk (2004) was the last import to win. Also bred in NZ were Bold Monarch (1977) and Sledgehammer (1975 & 1976). The British-bred Spanish Pool (1984) and Foveros (1982), and the Irish-bred Flaming Rock won it in 1991.

PERSONALITY

New Year New Start

Tara Laing

With the well-publicised Mayfair Speculators difficulties, PE trainer Tara Laing is facing some big changes in 2018, but as ever, our Scottish lass is meeting the challenge head on.

Changes

While not dwelling on the obvious, the repercussions of training only for Mayfair Speculators are bound to be pretty significant. "I'm 45 and am basically having to start my whole life over again," says Tara in her usual frank manner. "But what can you do? You've just got to make it work. I've got a brilliant team behind me. My partner Gavin walks every step of the way with me, I've got my son Ewan for support as well as my mother Janette, her husband David and my father Ray for moral support. We're just focussing forward and getting on with the job at hand."

The 'job at hand' is transitioning from being a private trainer to opening up the yard to new clients. Tara has a formidable strike rate, closing the 2016 season on 12.7% and is currently on 18.9%, so the stats speak for themselves. However, the festive season is a notoriously slow time of year, resulting in a frustrating time for someone who does not live life at pedestrian pace. "People are away and it's generally the time not to think about horses for those who don't have to. I have had a lot of enquiries. A lot of people have just been inquisitive, but Mario Ferreira has sent me a horse, Gavin and Dr Parker have bought one back from me, Etienne Braun has bought three and Braam van Huyssteen has a baby on the farm – it's a start," she says brightly.

About Tara

Tara started her professional equestrian life as a show-jumper. "We were originally living in the Transvaal and then my parents moved to Natal and that's when I got involved in racing. A couple of jockeys asked me to come and ride work at Summerveld one morning and that was it – I was hooked."

She joined Tessa and Johnny Dawson at Summerveld, alongside Julie Dittman, stable jockey Nick Shearer and apprentice Justin Henson and never looked back. "I started off as a groom and over the years I worked my way up the ladder."

When her parents moved back to Joburg, she went along – with her jockey fiancé at the time. "I've had a wonderful story-telling life," she smiles. "I worked at Randjes for many years and then left racing and went back to show-jumping to work for Errol Wucherpfennig. Then I met my ex-husband and we got married and he said let's move to PE as it would be a better environment to start a family. Ewan was born, I divorced and shortly afterwards Justin Snaith phoned and said I want you to run my yard and I said that's fine," she recounts matter-of-factly.

Pauline Herman

PE

Tara spent 10 years running the Snaith's satellite operation in PE before deciding she needed a change. "I've always wanted to work for as many people as I could. Everyone trains differently, everyone has different methods and everyone has their two cents' worth. In a racing yard, you learn something new every day." She saw an ad for an assistant to run a satellite operation for the late Sean Miller. "Peter had all the Mayfair horses in PE at Fairview. When Peter passed away, his son took over in Kimberley, so I was employed to train the Mayfair horses at Fairview. The next phone call I got was 'you'd better take out your license, you're now a trainer!" That was back in 2012 and she's been holding her own ever since.

Has she enjoyed it? "I love it," she enthuses in her Scottish brogue. "You meet so many people in different walks of life. It's like a box of smarties – each to their own."

Learning Curve

Five years as a private trainer has offered some unique learning opportunities. "Getting horses that other people have given up on, turning them around and winning with them again showed me I can get into a horse's head and change its attitude completely- if the horse will allow me to. Look at Normanz and his history. Drill Sergeant came to me as a 1-time winner and ended up winning 14 races. I like my older horses. As I say, horses never lose their ability, they only lose their form, so if a horse has had brilliant form earlier in its career, there's still something there. It's up to me to get it back to where it belongs. I really have to say a big thank you to Derek Brugman who trusted me completely in this regard and allowed me to make all horse-related decisions at all times."

"Not every horse is going to win a race. Not every horse can run – they are horses at the end of the day – but when you're standing in the winner's box, you know you've done your job and it's very rewarding.

Have there been any special favourites over the years? "So many. Where does one start? Parceval, Vauclair, Sir Duke, Crown Of Gold, Drill Sergeant- they gave endless amounts of pleasure- on

TARA LAING

and off the racecourse."

Onwards & upwards

Tara has 56 boxes and is gradually phasing in new client horses. She's also got a solid team behind her, including grooms and work riders who have been with her for over a decade. "And you've got to mention Gavin Venter. We've been together 14 years and he's basically my right hand man. He does so much work in the yard, rides work and gives me positive feedback in the morning, I've got a brilliant bunch of grooms, most of them are related and my head guy is phenomenal. My work riders would hold their own in any of the bigger stables in the country – they are fantastic."

"The open space in PE seems to suit horses really well. "PE somehow has a really good feel to it for the horses. You always get that really difficult horse, but once they've settled into their surroundings, they see goats and cows that roam around and it makes them feel like a horse again."

One of the challenges Tara is most looking forward to is being able to select and produce young horses from scratch. "I'd say 98% of the horses I've had were all older horses or had some mileage on them. I'm going to the CTS sales in January. I think a lot of people are expecting me to hide under a rock, but that's not me. Instead of getting 5yo's to try and rejuvenate, I'm looking forward to working with some babies and watching them progress through the ranks and who knows, maybe even campaign in other centres."

PE Strong

PE has certainly done itself proud in that regard, not only producing Bold Silvano, but also raiding other centres successfully over the years. "There is a really good calibre of horses in PE. I started with the Snaiths in 2003 and the quality of horses then to now has improved tenfold. It's not easy. PE is very competitive, trainers are very competitive and to me, if you can train a horse in PE and win, you can train anywhere in the country."

The focus going forward is "to do the best we can and train horses to the best of our ability. If you produce the goods on the racecourse, then you know you've done your job at home. To me, you do your homework at home and you write your test at the racecourse. If you fail, you need to do more homework."

"I've been in racing for so long. I wasn't handed anything on a plate, I worked hard, met wonderful people and owners in the game and am hoping my no-nonsense approach and work ethic will help draw owners to the yard," says Tara. "There are no airs and graces or hidden agendas and with me a spade's a spade. I don't know whether that's always a good thing, but there it is."

However, the change is bringing new challenges. "I'm at my PC screen trying to draft an invoice for my first clients and scratching my head. I've never done books. I deal with clients telephonically – my communication's always been top notch, but this is a completely different ball game. It's like going back to school!" But it's all part and parcel of moving forward and Tara is looking forward to the challenge. "It takes a lot to put out the Scottish flame!"

The Stats Do The Talking

The 2018 CTS Cape Premier Yearling Sale carries the names of 25 future stakes winners on its pages. That's based on the average of more than 10% achieved between 2011 and 2016.

Figures show how CTS has raised the bar remarkably for buyers and sellers since its inception in 2011. Statistics reveal why this sale, scheduled for 20 and 21 January 2018, is the single thoroughbred auction serious buyers cannot afford to miss next year.

Figures supplied for the Cape Premier Yearling Sale contain some interesting facts, starting with an outstanding 27 Gr1 winners from the six Premier Sales completed so far.

The five Sales spanning from 2011 to 2015 have produced no fewer than 125 stakes winners. This equates to more than 10% of horses catalogued. The 2016 draft has already produced 6 stakes winners even though these runners are only three-year-olds, so there is every reason to believe that a figure of 10% will be achieved again.

This incredible statistic is more than twice as good as the comparative achieved by any other Yearling Sale in South Africa over the same period. This means that your chances of buying a stakes winner is more than twice as good at CPYS than at any other Yearling Sale in the land.

The 2012 CPYS produced 38 stakes winners so far (11% of horses catalogued) including Red Ray, Normanz, Athina, Gulf Storm, Whistle Stop, Graduation Day and Lanner Falcon.

The high quality 2013 sale has produced 23 stakes winners thus far including Act Of War, Brutal Force, Pine Princess and Real Princess. In 2014, stakes winners like Liege, Banner Hill and Jo's Bond passed through the ring.

Cloth Of Cloud, Lady Of The House, Singapore Sling and Smiling Blue Eyes are just four of 22 stakes winners from the 2015 renewal, while Magic Wonderland and Sand And Sea are among the early stakes successes from CPYS 2016.

Wehann Smith, CEO of CTS, commented: "These figures are pretty amazing in my view. I think it is fair to say that we are around the 10% long-term mark of stakes winners to catalogued which must surely be an incredible statistic."

Overall, a formidable 85,9% of all lots catalogued since 2012 have made it to the racetrack, while 61,7% of all lots catalogued have won at least one race. Both these figures are markedly higher than those attained at other sales. This confirms CTS's belief that January is an excellent time to sell yearlings.

"This is a fantastic catalogue," said CTS Bloodstock Manager Kerry Jack. "We have 70 lots by South Africa's top four sires Captain Al, Dynasty, Silvano and Trippi and 18 lots by international sires including Frankel and Camelot. There are eight lots produced from Gr1 winning mares and 14 siblings to Gr1 winners."

CTS has instituted an Inward Buyer Incentive to reward international investment, which includes subsidies for travellers outside South Africa, both for established and new buyers.

For more information contact Kerry Jack on 082 782 7297 or kerry@cthbs.com.

MISSED RECENT RESULTS? **Click here** for a quick link to the Sporting Post website

BREEDING

Dynasty Bookends Big Year

Highlands' four-times Equus champion Dynasty has 12 lots on offer at this month's Cape Premier Yearling Sale and the son of Fort Wood looks likely to have plenty of serious bidders inspecting his progeny.

The super stallion was in the news this long weekend when the year clicked over from 2017 to 2018.

He produced the final feature winner of 2017 when his unbeaten daughter Hashtagyolo coasted home to win the Gr3 Flamboyant Stakes at Greyville on Sunday and he struck with a smart double to open the Durbanville meeting on Monday.

His son Dynasty's Boy won the first race of 2018 when justifying tote favouritism in the first race, a maiden plate over 1250m. Bred by Highlands Stud, Dynasty's Boy was a R2,7Mil buy from the 2016 Cape Premier Yearling Sale.

Dynasty is also responsible for Joey Ramsden's Dynasty's Blossom, who romped home to score a runaway 5.5 length maiden win over 2000m on Monday. She has now won or placed in all five career outings.

The consistent 3yo filly, also bred by Highlands, in partnership with Georgina Jaffee, was a R4,5 Mil buy from the 2016 Cape Premier Yearling Sale.

Philip Tops Charts

US$1 million Up For Grabs

First entries are in for the CTS 1200 and CTS 1600 to be run on Sun Met Day.

The two events –run over 1200m and a mile – are restricted to eligible graduates of the 2016 Cape Premier Yearling Sale held on 21 and 22 January 2016, the CTS March Yearling Sale held on 19 and 20 March 2016 and the Emperors Palace Select Yearling Sale held on 21 April 2016.

The What A Winter colt Dutch Philip continues to top the log with Gr1 winner Sand And Sea, with only one disappointing run under his belt this term, in second position.

At current rates of exchange, the total prize money on offer is over R12 million.

Supplementary entries are due by 11h00 on Wednesday 10 January 2018.

The final fields will be selected by a panel appointed by Kenilworth Racing.

See the latest logs here

Pomodoro Power!

New sire off the mark - Pomodoro

Pomodoro (Jet Master – Golden Apple)

Klawervlei Stud's young stallion Pomodoro was represented by his first winner when his two-year-old son Lethal Weapon made a winning debut over 1000m at the Vaal on Tuesday.

Bred, owned, and trained by Dorrie Sham, Lethal Weapon was steered to victory by Weichong Marwing, who guided the Pomodoro colt to a comfortable hands and heels win. It was another five lengths back to third place finisher Now And Forever.

Lethal Weapon was produced by the Victory Moon mare Cashmere Mafia.

Pomodoro has made an exceptional start to his stud career, with his first three runners having all either won or finished in the money.

This is a great start for a Derby winner who himself never raced at two!

Champion trainer Sean Tarry, who trained Pomodoro himself, sent out Pomodoro first crop 2yos Royal Italian and Cirillo to finish second and third on their respective debuts and holds both colts in high regard.

Royal Italian is set to contest a big juvenile race on Sun Met day, while Cirillo (described by his trainer as a classic type) could also face the starter at the 2018 Met day.

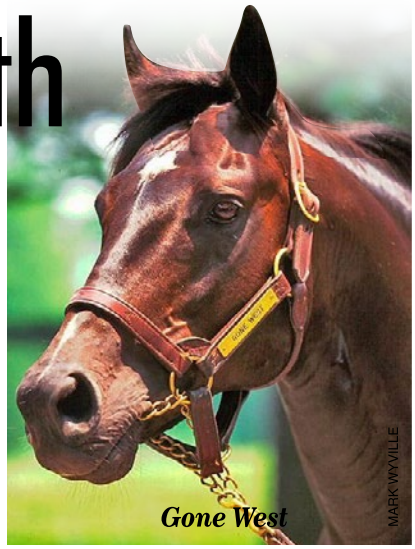
One of more than 20 Gr1 winners for seven times champion sire Jet Master, Pomodoro won from 1160-2450m during his illustrious career, and, like leading sire Dynasty, accounted for some of the country's finest when victorious in the Gr1 Vodacom Durban July.

Produced by Broodmare Of The Year Golden Apple, Pomodoro won or placed in all of the Gr1 Vodacom Durban July, Gr1 SA Derby, Gr1 SA Classic, Gr1 L'Ormarins Queen's Plate, Gr1 Rising Sun Gold Challenge and Gr1 Champions Challenge.

Pomodoro has five lots on the 2018 Cape Premier Yearling Sale.

BREEDING

West's Shares Head North


Gone West
MARK WYVILLE

The late Gone West took time to establish himself as a top flight producer but today there can be no doubting his capability as a broodmare sire.

The son of nine time leading US Broodmare Sire Mr Prospector is damsire of 112 stakes winners headed by such Gr1 winners Motivator (Epsom Derby), Order Of St George (Irish St Leger-twice), Union Rags (Belmont Stakes) Healthy Addiction (Santa Margarita Stakes), Leading Light (St Leger, Gold Cup), African Story (Dubai World Cup), Brilliant Speed (Blue Grass Stakes), Frost Giant (Suburban Handicap) and Awesome Feather (Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies).

Gone West is also broodmare sire of Gr1 winning 2yo Violence (Medaglia D'Oro) – one of the leading first crop sires in North America for 2017, while Union Rags is currently one of the US' most promising sires with his early crops yielding such Gr1 winners as Paradise Woods (Santa Anita Oaks), Free Drop Billy (Breeders' Futurity) and Dancing Rags (Alciabiades Stakes).

In South Africa, Gone West is broodmare sire of Michael Roberts Handicap winner West Coast Gold (Rich Man's Gold), game front runner Polzeath (Singspiel) and Gr3 Three Troikas Handicap winner Acoustical (Red Ransom).

Diversity

It is perhaps a testimony to Gone West's prowess as a broodmare sire that he is damsire of Gr1 winners by stallions as diverse as Awesome Of Course and Boston Harbor to Galileo and Montjeu.

On the US Broodmare Sires List for 2017, Gone West is ranked 36th, while his sons Elusive Quality (10th), Mr Greeley (22nd) and Grand Slam (26th) all rank above him.

Predictably, Gone West and his sire sons' daughters have often fared well when mated to Northern Dancer line stallions.

Elusive Quality, arguably Gone West's best sire son, is fast stamping himself as a top class broodmare sire and is damsire of 2017 Gr1 Breeders' Cup Sprint winner Roy H (More Than Ready) among others.

The influence of Elusive Quality through his daughters is likely to be longstanding, with Elusive Quality damsire of high-profile young stallions No Nay Never (Scat Daddy), Deep Field (Northern Meteor) and Shooting To Win (Northern Meteor). He is already damsire of more than 50 stakes winners, with his daughters having fared particularly well when mated to champion Australian sire Exceed And Excel (Danehill). This combination has resulted in champion filly Guelph, high class 2yo of 2017 Sound And Silence and top class sprinter Cotai Glory.

Dual Gr1 winner Grand Slam- best known in South Africa as sire of successful stallion Visionaire- has already made his mark at Gr1 level as a broodmare sire, with his daughters already producing Bradester (Stephen Foster Hcp), Princess Violet (Madison Stakes) and star miler Toronado (High Chaparral) -winner of both the Gr1 Queen Anne and Gr1 Sussex Stakes.

Purring

Another Gr1 winner produced by a Grand Slam mare is Admiral Kitten (Secretariat Stakes) who is currently standing at Moutonshoek.

Brilliant miler Zafonic is another Gone West horse to have left his mark as a broodmare sire. The 1993 2000 Guineas winner is damsire of, among others, successful young sire Showcasing (Oasis Dream) whose 20 plus stakes winners include dual Gr1 winning sprinter Quiet Reflection. Showcasing's stakes winning half-brother Camacho (Danehill) is also sired high class performers notably group winners Puff, Green Door and My Catch.

Zafonic is also damsire of Gr1 winners Awzaan (Alhaarth), Izzi Top (Pivotal), Sultanina (New Approach), Vazira (Sea The Stars), Zambezi Sun (Dansili) and Zafisio (Efisio) –and like Gone West, his daughters have fared well when mated to a variety of stallions.

Zafonic's own brother Zamindar is another of this clan to become a high class broodmare sire, with that Gone West son damsire of champion Kingman (Invincible Spirit) as well as Gr1 winners New Bay and Zarak.

Breeders' Cup Sprint winner Mr Greeley (Gone West) is damsire of at least 49 stakes winners headed by Gr1 winning filly Zazu (Tapit), Breeders' Cup 'winner' Ria Antonia (Rockport Harbor) and Kentucky Derby runner up Closing Argument (Successful Appeal), while his classic winning daughter Finsceal Beo is dam of Gr2 Beresford Stakes winner Ol' Man River (Montjeu).

Winter Time

Western Winter, Gone West's best sire son to stand in South Africa, has enjoyed marked success as a broodmare sire of late, partly through the siblings Tap O' Noth and Strathdon, winners of the Gr1 Cape Guineas and Gr3 Cape Summer Stayers Handicap.

To date, Western Winter is broodmare sire of four Gr1 winners, headed by Equus Champions Past Master and Carry On Alice. He is also broodmare sire of Gr3 Palm Beach Stakes hero Howe Great (Hat Trick) and recent Hong Kong winner, and Dingaans victor, Singapore Sling (Philanthropist).

Interestingly both Carry On Alice and Tap O' Noth are sired by Captain Al, while Silvano is damsire of high class performers out of Western Winter mares in the form of the above mentioned Strathdon, Black Arthur and Wind Chill – who runs in the Paddock Stakes on Saturday.

With a number of young, well performed daughters yet to be represented on the track, Western Winter's broodmare record could yet improve further over time.

The full cards for Weekend Racing with ratings & tips can be purchased here

LEADING BREEDERS by STAKES

SEASON 2017/2018 • 1 August - 2 January 2018

Stakes	Breeder	rnrs	AEPR	runs	wnrs	wns	wnr/ rnr%	SW wnrs	SW wns	SW/ wnr%	plcs	plc/ rns%	SP	top earner with stakes & % of total stakes		
8,970,925	Summerhill Stud	262	34,240	1028	62	86	24%	1	1	2%	254	25%	1	Big Bear	1,312,500	15%
8,293,775	Klawervlei Stud	277	29,941	948	68	83	25%	4	5	6%	290	31%	6	Silicone Valley	278,000	3%
7,078,725	Maine Chance	131	54,036	430	42	61	32%	5	5	12%	114	27%	3	Liege	1,203,250	17%
5,154,525	Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein	149	34,594	460	43	52	29%	2	3	5%	148	32%	5	Zen Arcade	484,375	9%
4,308,800	Highlands	122	35,318	442	47	56	39%	2	2	4%	104	24%	1	My Friend Lee	269,800	6%
3,519,000	Ascot Stud	75	46,920	244	23	31	31%	2	3	9%	74	30%	3	Bold Respect	528,750	15%
3,514,100	Scott Bros	129	27,241	482	29	37	22%	0	0	0%	137	28%	4	Premier Show	197,875	6%
3,354,100	Drakenstein Stud	88	38,115	269	32	39	36%	0	0	0%	86	32%	4	White River	330,000	10%
3,347,763	Varsfontein Stud	83	40,334	287	26	34	31%	2	2	8%	90	31%	5	Surcharge	288,750	9%
3,205,750	Moutonshoek	99	32,381	354	23	33	23%	1	1	4%	92	26%	1	Broadway Trip	715,000	22%
2,980,750	Hemel 'n Aarde Stud	94	31,710	361	27	35	29%	0	0	0%	107	30%	2	Tommy Waterdevil	174,200	6%
2,340,725	Cheveley Stud	52	45,014	176	15	18	29%	2	3	13%	53	30%	0	Snowdance	891,000	38%
1,864,425	IR Heyns	40	46,611	147	15	22	38%	1	1	7%	45	31%	0	Torre Del Oro	217,600	12%
1,805,400	Gary Player Stud	65	27,775	236	18	25	28%	0	0	0%	66	28%	1	Sleepinseattle	217,450	12%
1,777,175	Favour Stud	57	31,179	256	19	22	33%	0	0	0%	77	30%	0	What A Winner	132,000	7%

LEADING SIRES by STAKES

SEASON 2017/2018 • 1 August - 2 January 2018

Stakes	Sire	rnrs	AEPR	runs	wnrs	wns	wnr/ rnr%	SW wnrs	SW wns	SW/ wnr%	plcs	plc/ rns%	SP	top earner with stakes & % of total stakes		
7,252,775	Silvano	192	37,775	567	58	75	30%	5	7	9%	172	30%	7	Girl On The Run	381,250	5%
6,787,225	Trippi	112	60,600	351	41	55	37%	1	2	2%	137	39%	4	Miss Katalin	1,562,500	23%
6,183,963	*Captain Al	130	47,569	407	42	50	32%	3	5	7%	145	36%	7	Snowdance	891,000	14%
5,913,250	Dynasty	115	51,420	334	46	60	40%	7	7	15%	81	24%	2	Liege	1,203,250	20%
5,325,913	Var	176	30,261	596	43	56	24%	1	1	2%	188	32%	2	Western Storm	181,900	3%
4,323,075	*Kahal	108	40,028	422	40	53	37%	0	0	0%	126	30%	3	Pure Blonde	216,250	5%
4,118,150	Querari	87	47,335	283	32	41	37%	2	2	6%	82	29%	1	Wonderwall	425,000	10%
3,552,775	*Sail From Seattle	104	34,161	343	36	48	35%	1	2	3%	91	27%	0	Via Seattle	203,750	6%
3,309,775	Gimmethegreenlight	116	28,533	382	32	37	28%	1	1	3%	89	23%	3	Surcharge	288,750	9%
2,950,575	Elusive Fort	74	39,873	276	27	32	36%	0	0	0%	88	32%	2	Fort Ember	432,400	15%
2,683,375	Ideal World	71	37,794	252	18	28	25%	1	2	6%	79	31%	3	Zen Arcade	484,375	18%
2,649,575	Jay Peg	85	31,171	297	21	28	25%	1	1	5%	93	31%	1	Silicone Valley	278,000	10%
2,579,550	Mambo In Seattle	106	24,335	397	18	27	17%	1	1	6%	113	28%	1	Sleepinseattle	217,450	8%
2,487,025	Philanthropist	84	29,607	279	24	29	29%	0	0	0%	69	25%	2	Pack Leader	343,750	14%
2,464,400	Pathfork	68	36,241	239	22	27	32%	1	1	5%	82	34%	1	My Friend Lee	269,800	11%

LEADING SIRES of 3YO'S by STAKES

SEASON 2017/2018 • 1 August - 2 January 2018

Stakes	Sire	rnrs	AEPR	runs	wnrs	wns	wnr/ rnr%	SW wnrs	SW wns	SW/ wnr%	plcs	plc/ rns%	SP	top earner with stakes & % of total stakes		
3,907,000	Trippi	35	111,629	107	15	19	43%	0	0	0%	49	46%	2	Miss Katalin	1,562,500	40%
3,776,588	*Captain Al	47	80,353	156	21	27	45%	2	4	10%	62	40%	2	Snowdance	891,000	24%
2,590,763	Var	65	39,858	218	22	27	34%	0	0	0%	81	37%	1	Varsity Girl	141,225	5%
2,498,575	Querari	42	59,490	125	18	21	43%	2	2	11%	37	30%	0	Wonderwall	425,000	17%
2,338,325	Silvano	73	32,032	182	23	28	32%	0	0	0%	57	31%	2	Vacquero	175,000	7%
2,337,200	Await The Dawn	31	75,394	118	11	15	35%	0	0	0%	31	26%	0	Big Bear	1,312,500	56%
2,221,375	*Sail From Seattle	60	37,023	195	23	31	38%	1	2	4%	54	28%	0	Via Seattle	203,750	9%
2,018,675	Gimmethegreenlight	68	29,686	213	19	22	28%	1	1	5%	48	23%	1	Surcharge	288,750	14%
1,832,038	What A Winter	59	31,051	180	20	22	34%	0	0	0%	52	29%	2	Magical Wonderland	164,375	9%
1,757,975	Dynasty	47	37,404	120	18	22	38%	2	2	11%	25	21%	0	Hashtagyolo	284,375	16%

LEADING SIRES of 2YO'S by STAKES

SEASON 2017/2018 • 1 August - 2 January 2018

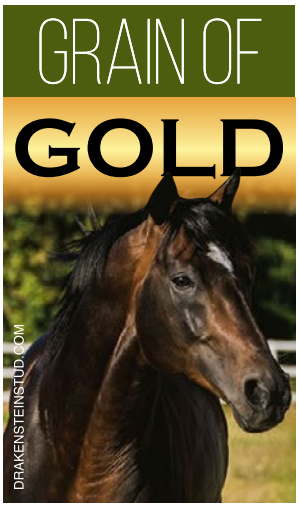
Stakes	Sire	rnrs	AEPR	runs	wnrs	wns	wnr/ rnr%	SW wnrs	SW wns	SW/ wnr%	plcs	plc/ rns%	SP	top earner with stakes & % of total stakes		
125,700	Crusade	4	31,425	7	1	1	25%	0	0	0%	5	71%	0	Crimean Queen	62,500	50%
118,150	*Sail From Seattle	6	19,692	7	2	2	33%	0	0	0%	2	29%	0	Twin Falls	50,000	42%
109,375	Oratorio	3	36,458	3	2	2	67%	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	Van Halen	59,375	54%
86,500	Elusive Fort	3	28,833	4	1	1	33%	0	0	0%	3	75%	0	Good Buddy	62,500	72%
78,100	Var	7	11,157	8	1	1	14%	0	0	0%	3	38%	0	Val-La-Ree	62,500	80%
66,500	What A Winter	3	22,167	3	1	1	33%	0	0	0%	1	33%	0	Vertical Descent	62,500	94%
64,875	Byword	2	32,438	2	1	1	50%	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	Crown And Country	62,500	96%
63,400	Bold Silvano	4	15,850	4	1	1	25%	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	Miss Boomerang	59,375	94%
60,250	Eightfold Path	4	15,063	4	1	1	25%	0	0	0%	1	25%	0	Born A Bully	41,250	68%

LEADING SIRES by STAKES on Polytrack

SEASON 2017/2018 • 1 August - 2 January 2018

Stakes	Sire	rnrs	AEPR	runs	wnrs	wns	wnr/ rnr%	SW wnrs	SW wns	SW/ wnr%	plcs	plc/ rns%	SP	top earner with stakes & % of total stakes		
1,174,675	*Sail From Seattle	49	23,973	120	16	18	33%	0	0	0%	39	33%	0	Seattle Flame	123,750	11%
918,100	Trippi	36	25,503	78	8	11	22%	0	0	0%	39	50%	0	Olympic Power	162,700	18%
851,500	*Kahal	33	25,803	73	9	11	27%	0	0	0%	18	25%	0	Kahula	121,000	14%
849,250	Silvano	40	21,231	70	13	14	33%	0	0	0%	18	26%	1	Viento	101,875	12%
817,900	Gimmethegreenlight	44	18,589	87	8	11	18%	0	0	0%	25	29%	0	Accidental Tourist	150,000	18%
759,450	Querari	28	27,123	65	9	11	32%	0	0	0%	18	28%	0	Desert Wisdom	93,450	12%
734,963	*Captain Al	42	17,499	82	9	10	21%	0	0	0%	27	33%	1	Captain Marmalade	92,850	13%
718,075	*Antonius Pius	32	22,440	94	11	12	34%	0	0	0%	19	20%	0	Aqua Blue	99,900	14%
660,850	*Western Winter	28	23,602	65	8	8	29%	0	0	0%	25	38%	0	Mumsy's Jet	116,450	18%

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



Drakenstein's Kingsbarns is the first Gr1 winning son of multiple Champion Sire Galileo to stand in South Africa and he has just one lot on the forthcoming Cape Premier Yearling Sale.

The colt (#28) is out of a winning half-sister to two stakes horses and the family will be instantly recognisable to local buyers. They include recent Gr2 Cape Merchants winner and L'Ormarins Queen's Plate hope Silicone Valley, and champions In The Fast Lane, Trademark, Just Sensual- who runs in the Gr2 Sceptre Stakes on Saturday - and Let's Rock 'N Roll.

A top racer, Kingsbarns won his maiden by 7 lengths, and would go on to win the Gr1 Racing Post trophy beating Group winners Van Der Neer, Steeler, First Cornerstone and Trading Leather. A top juvenile of his generation he earned a Timeform rating 120, the second highest rated juvenile behind Dawn Approach of that year.

Kingsbarns hails from an exceptional female line, with relatives including 8 x champion sire in NZ, Volksraad, as well as Champion Miler and proven Gr1 Sire Rip Van Winkle.

LEADING TRAINERS by STAKES

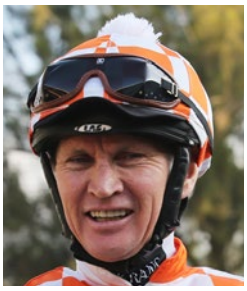
SEASON 2017/2018 • 1 August - 2 January 2017

trainer	rides	wins	win %	fav	fav %	wfav %	2nd	2nd %	1st four	1st four%	stakes	stks/ rides
J Snaith	537	76	14%	90	17%	32%	57	11%	238	44%	8,962,600	16,690
SG Tarry	463	37	8%	65	14%	22%	44	10%	164	35%	7,097,350	15,329
MF de Kock	283	56	20%	102	36%	37%	42	15%	163	58%	5,740,350	20,284
C Bass-Robinson	422	49	12%	51	12%	29%	34	8%	183	43%	4,472,100	10,597
PA Peter	268	46	17%	48	18%	31%	23	9%	118	44%	4,466,663	16,667
BJ Crawford	295	35	12%	48	16%	25%	42	14%	134	45%	3,972,075	13,465
AC Greeff	399	51	13%	81	20%	32%	54	14%	190	48%	3,543,200	8,880
AG Laird	186	30	16%	41	22%	41%	22	12%	87	47%	3,229,225	17,361
DC Howells	258	32	12%	44	17%	34%	30	12%	112	43%	3,179,425	12,323
MG & AA Azzie	209	23	11%	35	17%	20%	32	15%	89	43%	3,151,275	15,078
GS Kotzen	360	34	9%	32	9%	38%	31	9%	123	34%	2,941,025	8,170
DR Drier	237	29	12%	46	19%	35%	31	13%	110	46%	2,881,063	12,156
D Kannemeyer	204	33	16%	35	17%	51%	20	10%	88	43%	2,861,550	14,027
VH Marshall	231	28	12%	26	11%	42%	24	10%	96	42%	2,766,225	11,975
J Ramsden	226	27	12%	37	16%	27%	31	14%	103	46%	2,685,575	11,883
JAJ v Vuuren	189	20	11%	34	18%	18%	30	16%	87	46%	2,652,400	14,034
GD Smith	477	28	6%	27	6%	30%	50	10%	167	35%	2,529,700	5,303
GV Woodruff	183	26	14%	44	24%	34%	24	13%	83	45%	2,517,900	13,759
Y Bremner	319	34	11%	38	12%	21%	27	8%	136	43%	2,457,525	7,704
T Laing	175	33	19%	29	17%	38%	21	12%	89	51%	2,157,950	12,331
M Houdalakis	206	23	11%	26	13%	35%	17	8%	85	41%	2,103,613	10,212
G v Zyl	164	22	13%	24	15%	38%	21	13%	73	45%	2,099,425	12,801
DA Sham	271	27	10%	18	7%	28%	29	11%	98	36%	2,085,425	7,695
LW Goosen	108	21	19%	25	23%	36%	17	16%	61	56%	1,978,425	18,319
SD Gray	230	20	9%	10	4%	20%	19	8%	86	37%	1,951,651	8,485
A Nel	196	22	11%	29	15%	28%	22	11%	95	48%	1,872,075	9,551

LEADING JOCKEYS by WINS

SEASON 2017/2018 • 1 August - 2 January 2017

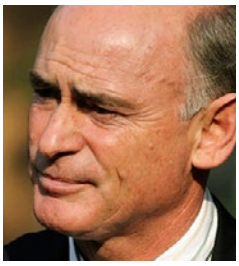
jockey	rides	wins	win %	fav	fav %	wfav %	2nd	2nd %	1st four	1st four%	stakes	stks/ rides
A Delpech	316	79	25%	121	38%	39%	53	17%	199	63%	7,341,938	23,234
L Hewitson	590	63	11%	70	12%	24%	66	11%	248	42%	6,139,025	10,405
M Yeni	519	59	11%	87	17%	26%	53	10%	243	47%	5,197,963	10,015
A Marcus	225	58	26%	111	49%	35%	36	16%	140	62%	5,027,538	22,345
C Murray	369	58	16%	80	22%	36%	44	12%	160	43%	4,472,100	12,120
A Domeyer	300	57	19%	89	30%	33%	36	12%	177	59%	4,338,675	14,462
K De Melo	476	55	12%	64	13%	34%	56	12%	227	48%	5,634,525	11,837
G Lerena	260	54	21%	98	38%	33%	48	18%	156	60%	5,371,788	20,661
R Fourie	284	49	17%	55	19%	35%	40	14%	147	52%	4,029,450	14,188
G Wrogemann	393	46	12%	39	10%	38%	43	11%	171	44%	5,349,188	13,611
G v Niekerk	230	43	19%	41	18%	22%	35	15%	138	60%	5,801,200	25,223
G Cheyne	294	41	14%	64	22%	31%	48	16%	164	56%	3,559,750	12,108
B Fayd'herbe	197	39	20%	46	23%	33%	22	11%	107	54%	3,983,025	20,218
K Zechner	392	38	10%	30	8%	17%	45	11%	166	42%	3,435,663	8,764
C Zackey	466	38	8%	43	9%	21%	43	9%	171	37%	3,833,988	8,227
R Danielson	301	32	11%	20	7%	30%	22	7%	113	38%	3,734,350	12,406
R Munger	516	31	6%	13	3%	46%	29	6%	155	30%	2,684,175	5,202
W Kennedy	307	30	10%	34	11%	29%	40	13%	127	41%	2,813,125	9,163
JP vd Merwe	410	30	7%	30	7%	30%	33	8%	136	33%	2,787,863	6,800
J Penny	450	29	6%	8	2%	13%	25	6%	122	27%	2,062,875	4,584
P Strydom	208	28	13%	37	18%	19%	29	14%	88	42%	2,759,450	13,267
M Thackeray	406	26	6%	8	2%	13%	23	6%	121	30%	1,755,426	4,324
R Simons	197	25	13%	41	21%	34%	20	10%	81	41%	2,775,000	14,086
S Veale	276	25	9%	38	14%	24%	38	14%	125	45%	3,284,450	11,900
A Arries	163	23	14%	14	9%	36%	18	11%	74	45%	1,828,450	11,217
M Byleveld	177	22	12%	23	13%	48%	23	13%	80	45%	2,416,250	13,651



Piere Strydom is looking for his seventh LQP winner on Saturday.

A Royal Strike?

It is 30 years since multiple SA champion jockey Piere Strydom rode his first L'Ormarins Queen's Plate winner on longshot Yard Master for trainer Tobie Spies. Striker won the big race again on Take A Walk (1994), Divine Force (1998), Jet Master (1999), Free My Heart (2000) and Gimmethegreenlight (2012). He is aboard Caroline Rupert's Fifty Cents on Saturday for Justin Snaith and will be looking to upset the odds again.



Geoff Woodruff has waited 14 years for another LQP winner

Senior Club

Gauteng trainer Geoff Woodruff – aka the Summer Cup King- is the senior statesman amongst Saturday's L'Ormarins Queen's Plate trainers. He saddles Deo Juvente, who has his second outing for a partnership that includes the famed 'Badge Boys'. Geoff trained his first LQP winner in January 2000 courtesy of the late great Jet Master, ridden by Anton Marcus. The Guv's most recent LQP winner came in 2004 when Rhys Van Wyk booted Yard-Arm home. It has thus been a while between drinks.

Anton Marcus and SA champion trainer Sean Tarry can power their way into the history books on Saturday

Hat-Trick Heroes

Anton Marcus and Sean Tarry stand on the brink of history at Kenilworth on Saturday where they bid to become only the second jockey-trainer combination in 157 years to win the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate three years running. Dual SA Horse Of The Year Legal Eagle, a son of July winner Greys Inn, is set for a hat-trick of wins in the prestigious mile. The now retired legend Mike Bass and Bernard Fayd'herbe achieved the feat with Jet Master's son Pocket Power from 2007 – 2010.

EXTENDED LISTS OF ALL STATS

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

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BLACK TYPE RESULTS

GREYVILLE (turf)

Tuesday, 26 December

Course Variant: 0,05s fast

17,5mm of rain fell in the lead up to this meeting and so no irrigation was needed. The penetrometer read 21 and the going was posted as good. There was a 25km/h south easterly tail wind, and there was no false rail.

Christmas Handicap (Listed) R250,000

Enough Is Enough

The Australian-bred 3yo Roy Had Enough was not winning the R250 000 Listed Christmas Handicap entirely out of turn on Tuesday!

With little pace early on, it was not surprising to find the versatile Redcarpet Captain bringing his field for home, with eventual winner Roy Had Enough last of the bunch. Into the straight, the in-form Lyle Hewitson pushed Roy Had Enough on to the rail as a massive gap opened.

With Redcarpet Captain going on doggedly and Wild Wicket looking dangerous, it was the well supported 15-2 shot Roy Had Enough who powered up the rail to hold off the late-finishing Legend in a time of 95,94 secs.

This was the young Avontuur-sponsored Lyle Hewitson's 61st winner of the term and he holds a commendable second place on the national jockey log as the sun sets on a long year.

The topweight Redcarpet Captain was always in the firing line and hung on for third ahead of the runner-up's stablemate Wild Wicket.

Johannesburg challenger Doosra ran stone last in a disappointing effort.

Roy Had Enough has won 3 races with 5 places from his 11 starts for stakes of R338 625.

The colt was a A$95,000 Magic Millions purchase from the Element Hill draft for World Wide Bloodstock and is the first winner for Queens Plaza (Elusive Quality), an unraced daughter of dual Gr1 winner and Australian Oaks queen Danendri.

His Coolmore sire Pierro (Lonhro) beat All Too Hard to clinch the Australian first-season sire championship in July.

On the track, Pierro won 11 of his 14 starts, sweeping the Sydney juvenile Gr1 grand slam of the Golden Slipper-Sires' Produce-Champagne Stakes, and defeating his elders in two Gr1's at three before retiring with earnings of A$4,536,650.

Christmas Handicap (L) 1600m

Winner Roy Had Enough was in real terms in under sufferance; drawn wide; dwelt start; raced in the rear; led 150m; won going away

Runner up Legend was squeezed at the start; raced 10th; ran on; outpaced latter stages by winner; beaten 2,75 lengths

Third Redcarpet Captain was drawn wide; set the pace; outpaced latter stages by winner; beaten 2,85 lengths

Time: By far the fastest of the three 1600m races, this comparatively was the second fastest race on the card

We gave the third (prev 95/91/95/96/95) 96 which makes the winner (prev 81/72/84/83/85) 94 and the runner up (prev 93/78/52/70/79) 81

94	**1**	0.00	**ROY HAD ENOUGH**	(13)	52.0	L Hewitson	12/1
3 b c Pierro - Queens Plaza(AUS) (Elusive Quality)							
81	**2**	2.75	**LEGEND**	(8)	53.0	K De Melo	9/2
4 b g Gimmethegreenlight - Colour Fast (Spectrum)							
96	**3**	2.85	**REDCARPET CAPTAIN**	(11)	60.0	B Lerena	10/1
5 b g Captain Al - Divine (Kabool)							
87	**4**	4.60	*Wild Wicket*	(3)	57.5	S Brown	22/1
90	**5**	4.85	*Mr Roy*	(6)	59.0	A Mgudlwa	28/1
78	**6**	4.95	*Sylvester The Cat*	(2)	54.0	M Yeni	13/1
84	**7**	5.45	*Nicklaus*	(9)	57.0	ES Ngwane	13/1
84	**8**	5.70	*Irish Pride*	(10)	57.5	A Marcus	7/1
77	**9**	6.20	*Warfarer*	(1)	54.5	T Godden	22/1
74	**10**	6.35	*Chicago Beat*	(5)	53.5	S Veale	12/1
75	**11**	7.35	*Dance On Air*	(4)	55.0	W Kennedy	13/2
85	**12**	7.40	*Mr O'Neill*	(12)	59.5	S Randolph	10/1
73	**13**	7.65	*Kingston Boy*	(14)	54.5	D Schwarz	50/1
83	**14**	7.75	*Doosra*	(7)	59.0	G Wrogemann	7/1

Time: *95.94s (59.96s avg/1000m, or 60km/h)* **SP Total %:** *118%*
1st **T:***F Robinson* **O:***Mr Roy Moodley* **B:***bred in Australia*

KENILWORTH (new course)

Saturday, 23 December

Course Variant: 0,58s fast (straight)

No rain fell in the seven days leading up to this meeting and despite 40mm of irrigation, the penetrometer read 20, and the going was good. There was a 23km/h north westerly tail wind, and the false rail was out 5m from the 1800m mark with a 6m spur at the 600m.

Southeaster Sprint (Listed) R150,000

Pulling Rank

Justin Snaith's perpetual motion machine Sergeant Hardy came out firing on all cylinders to go from gun to tape and win the R150 000 Listed Southeaster Sprint at Kenilworth on Saturday.

A Gr3 winning son of Captain Al, Sergeant Hardy is beset by breathing issue due to a vocal chord disease, but his heart and ability makes up for the respiratory shortcomings – and on Saturday he showed his paces.

Demonstrating that his fitness levels were vastly improved after his Cape Merchants no-show, Bernard Fayd'herbe had the 4yo out quickly and hard against the inside rail. With the field reduced to seven runners as a result of the withdrawal of Kingston Passage at the start, there was little to go with the Sergeant as he stretched in front. At the 400m, the very capable Brutal Force looked dangerous for a moment but Fayd'herbe was bluffing out front. Sergeant Hardy kicked again at the 150m marker and drew away to beat Rock Of Africa by 1,75 lengths in a time of 64,08 secs with Brutal Force a further 3,50 lengths back in third under his 62kg top weight.

Sergeant Hardy was knocked down to Glen Kotzen at the 2015 Cape Premier Yearling Sale for R450 000, but subsequently failed the post-sale scope which resulted in the sale being cancelled. At the Ready to Run Sale his right vocal chord remained paralysed, and a veterinary certificate to this effect was posted on his stable door. It was at this sale that he was bought back for R70 000 – an extraordinary price for a horse with an advertised defect.

He is by deceased champion sire Captain Al (Al Mufti) out of the four-time winner Hard Lady (by Hard Up), who also raced in the vieux rose and white silks.

Sergeant Hardy has now won 7 races with 4 places from 15 starts and stakes of R1 158 375.

Southeaster Sprint (L) 1100m

Winner Sergeant Hardy ducked in sharply for a number of strides leaving the stalls; set the pace; kept up a very healthy gallop throughout; won well

Runner up Rock Of Africa raced seventh of the eight; ran on strongly, and was very steadily gaining at the finish; beaten 1,75 lengths

Third Brutal Force raced 5th early; was positioned 2nd just two lengths off the winner at the 400m; beaten 5,25 lengths

Time: Comparatively, this was by far the fastest of the afternoon's six sprint races

We gave the runner up (prev 84/83/71/86/87) 86 which makes the winner (prev 91/104/88/104/97) 113 and the third (prev 0/100/106/81/51) 95

113	**1**	0.00	**SERGEANT HARDY**	(1)	61.0	B Fayd'herbe	3/1
4 b g Captain Al - Hard Lady (Hard Up)							
86	**2**	1.75	**ROCK OF AFRICA**	(4)	52.0	A Andrews	15/1
4 g Seventh Rock - Imperial Grace (Casey Tibbs)							
95	**3**	5.25	**BRUTAL FORCE**	(2)	62.0	M Seidl	15/1
6 ch g Western Winter - Nacarat (Pas De Quoi)							
72	**4**	5.55	*Power Grid*	(5)	52.0	R Fourie	11/2
74	**5**	6.05	*Percival*	(6)	54.0	R Khathi	13/1
76	**6**	6.25	*Lord Balmoral*	(3)	55.0	M Byleveld	28/10
65	**7**	8.50	*Horse Guards*	(7)	54.0	C Orffer	11/1

Time: *64.08s (58.25s avg/1000m, or 62km/h)* **SP Total %:** *95%*
1st **T:***J Snaith* **O:***Mrs V A Foulkes & Mr O de W Foulkes* **B:***Normandy Stud*

How Good Is Your Horse?

75% of all 2yo Gr1 winners
have ***ability ratings (AR)*** of more than 95

97% of all Gr1 winners age 3yo & up
have ***ability ratings (AR)*** of more than 95

Sporting Post ***ability ratings (AR)***
put every horse in its place

Check the race results on this page

BLACK TYPE RESULTS

KENILWORTH (new course)

Saturday, 23 December

Course Variant: 0,58s fast (straight)

No rain fell in the seven days leading up to this meeting and despite 40mm of irrigation, the penetrometer read 20, and the going was good. There was a 23km/h north westerly tail wind, and the false rail was out 5m from the 1800m mark with a 6m spur at the 600m.

Need For Speed Sprint (Nbt) R150,000

Festive Five

Richard Fourie is riding with almost nonchalant confidence at the moment and his powerful unflustered style suits a range of horses – and trainers it seems, with his five winners being provided by four different yards.

His ride on the long overdue Speedpoint for Joey Ramsden in the non black-type support feature at Kenilworth on Saturday was superb.

The Var colt, who has played the frustrating bridemaid and had only won once previously, was relaxed in midfield as What A Winner and Shufoog showed good toe early.

The latter, a flashy chestnut daughter of Star Witness, showed resolve under her handy galloping weight as she moved forward strongly down the rail in the final stages, but Fourie didn't even need his crop as he pushed Speedpoint to lead inside the distance.

The 33-10 Speedpoint charged home to register 58,71 secs for the 1000m and beat the gutsy Mike de Kock filly Shufoog by just over a half length.

Bred by Drakenstein Stud, the well named Speedpoint is a son of Var (Forest Wildcat) out of the ill-fated Durban July winner Big City Life's full-sister, Cash Register (Casey Tibbs). The latter, a dual stakes winner, won the Gr3 Final Fling Stakes at her peak when trained by Glen Kotzen.

A R700 000 buy from the 2016 Emperors Palace Select Yearling Sale, Speedpoint races for Brian and Kathy Finch and has won 2 races with 4 places from 8 starts for stakes of R240 725.

Need For Speed Sprint (3yo's) (nbt) 1000m

Winner Speedpoint (best handicapped) raced 4th; led 150m

Runner up Shufoog (2nd best handicapped) was slow into stride; raced sixth 1,5 lengths behind the winner; led 300m; headed 150m; kept on strongly; beaten 0,3 lengths

Third Al Mariachi raced alongside the winner in fourth; beaten 1,05 lengths

Time: Although this was by far the fastest of the 4 x 1000m races, the time comparatively, was not a particularly fast one.

We gave the winner (prev 93/88/81/73/88) 91 which makes the runner up (prev 88/84) 84 and the third (prev 94/97/92/97/87) 100

91	**1**	0.00	**SPEEDPOINT**	(3)	54.0	R Fourie		33/10
3 b c Var - Cash Register (Casey Tibbs)								
84	**2**	0.30	**SHUFOOG**	(1)	51.5	JP vd Merwe		7/2
3 ch f Star Witness - Golden Delicious(AUS) (Made Of Gold)								
100	**3**	1.05	**AL MARIACHI**	(8)	60.0	C Orffer		9/1
3 b c Great Britain - Senorita Al (Captain Al)								
91	**4**	1.15	*Mujaafy*	(10)	56.0	C Zackey		5/2
83	**5**	2.15	*Virtue*	(5)	54.0	R Khathi		44/1
79	**6**	3.15	*Valbonne*	(6)	54.0	G Cheyne		18/1
83	**7**	3.25	*What A Winner*	(4)	56.0	A Andrews		15/1
90	**8**	3.65	*Barrack Street*	(9)	60.0	B Fayd'herbe		13/1
71	**9**	6.15	*Johnny Black*	(2)	56.0	A Domeyer		11/1
64	**10**	6.90	*Victorious Captain*	(7)	54.0	M Byleveld		36/1

Time: *58.71s (58.71s avg/1000m, or 61km/h)* **SP Total %:** *116%*
1st **T:***J Ramsden* **O:***Mr B P & Mrs K Finch* **B:***Drakenstein Stud*

TURFFONTEIN (stand side)

Saturday, 30 December

Course Variant: 0.87s slow (straight)

With 12mm of irrigation added to the 9.3mm of rain that fell during the previous seven days, the penetrometer read 21 and the going was posted as good. There was a 17km/h north westerly cross/head wind and the false rail was out from 5.5m in the back straight to 10m on the bend. There was a 10m spur at the 700m mark.

Gr3 Lebelo Sprint R250,000

Too Quick

Mike de Kock's progressive Australian-bred 3yo Alfolk booked a berth in the Gr1 Cape Flying Championship at Kenilworth in January with a fluent victory.

With last year's Lebelo Sprint winner Rivarine coming for plenty of support in the betting market, any trepidation that jockey Anthony Delpech may have felt when he entered the starting stalls quickly abated in running.

"He was going well and was always going to win. We have found the trick and it worked. He is talented and is a lovely horse who wants to win now," said Delpech.

Rock Deejay and Greasepaint led the early charge, with Alfolk galloping smoothly two lengths off on their outside as his cheek pieces fluttered in the breeze.

At the 300m the Aussie-bred galloper glided forward to grab the advantage, as the gallant longshot 7yo Greasepaint kept on doggedly.

It was race over at the 200m as Alfolk drew away to beat Greasepaint by 1,25 lengths in a time of 56,96 secs. The runner-up earned R50 000 for his efforts – a bonus at this stage of his career.

Alfolk, who was registering his first stakes success, has won 4 races with 4 places from 9 starts and stakes of R696 375.

The winner was purchased by Shadwell Australia for A$380,000 at the Inglis Easter Sale from the draft of Sledmere Stud

By champion Darley Australia sire Lonhro (Octagonal), Alfolk is the second winner from three to race for Alteza Real (by Exceed And Excel), a three-quarter sister to stakeswinners Shinzig and Strada, and stakes placed Fiammarosa, being out of former top flight racemare Shindig.

Gr3 Lebelo Sprint 1000m

Winner Alfolk raced 3rd going through the 400m; led 100m; won going away with some in hand

Runner-up Greasepaint led 600m; outpaced final 100m

Third Rivarine raced in the rear 4 lengths off the pace; was just over a length behind the winner at the 400m marker; kept on

Time: Comparatively, this was by far the fastest of the four sprint races on the card. We gave the fourth (prev 85/82/85/28/88) 87 which makes the winner (prev 81/88/81/90/96) 102, the runner-up (prev 78/74/84-has done much more) 88 and the third (prev 99/59/100/85/81) 97

102	**1**	0.00	**ALFOLK**	(9)	55.0	A Delpech		17/10
3 b/br g Lonhro - Alteza Real(AUS) (Exceed And Excel)								
88	**2**	1.25	**GREASEPAINT**	(1)	53.5	F Herholdt		66/1
7 ch g Kahal - Lady Red (Russian Revival)								
97	**3**	1.50	**RIVARINE**	(5)	58.0	G Lerena		6/1
4 b g Var - River Jetez (Jet Master)								
87	**4**	2.25	*Whorly Whorly*	(7)	52.0	H vd Hoven		28/1
82	**5**	3.25	*Splendid Garden*	(13)	54.5	C Zackey		66/1
91	**6**	3.60	*The Thinker*	(6)	59.0	J Penny		9/1
81	**7**	3.75	*Mujallad*	(2)	52.0	R Munger		13/2
86	**8**	4.00	*African Ruler*	(10)	57.5	G Wrogemann		18/1
92	**9**	5.00	*Talktothestars*	(11)	62.0	P Strydom		9/1
70	**10**	5.05	*Movie Show*	(8)	52.0	M Yeni		18/1
73	**11**	5.30	*Rock DeeJay*	(4)	54.0	R Danielson		36/1
72	**12**	5.60	*Donny G*	(3)	54.0	L Hewitson		18/1
73	**13**	7.00	*Angel's Power*	(12)	57.0	Wei Marwing		9/1

Time: *56.96s (56.96s avg/1000m, or 63km/h)* **SP Total %:** *120%*
1st **T:***MF de Kock* **O:***Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid al Maktoum* **B:***bred in Australia*

Check the race results on this page

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

Phumelela Shareprice

date	close	high	low	volume
02Jan	1750	1750	1750	17
29Dec	1750	1750	1706	8,093
28Dec	1701	1701	1701	17
27Dec	1701	1750	1652	207,774
22Dec	1700	1743	1700	3,597
21Dec	1701	1745	1701	2,516
20Dec	1744	1744	1700	10,290
19Dec	1745	1745	1701	291
18Dec	1750	1750	1740	260,000

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BLACK TYPE RESULTS

GREYVILLE (turf)
Sunday, 31 December
Course Variant: 0.22s slow

21mm of rain fell in the seven days leading up to this meeting and off a penetrometer reading of 24 the going was posted as good to soft. There was a very moderate south westerly tail wind, and with no false rail the spur was set at 4m.

Gr3 Flamboyant S. (F&M) R250,000

She's Good!

Dean Kannemeyer ended 2017 on a high at Greyville on Sunday when his smart Dynasty filly Hashtagyolo showed her class and maintained her perfect record with a fluent victory in the Gr3 Flamboyant Stakes.

Tucked in midfield in the early stages as Sail and She's A Giver showed the way, Hastagyolo was taken wide to use her big stride and she made up ground in the home run to hit the front early and win going away.

Hashtagyolo registered a time of 97,24 secs and disposed of the year older stakes performed Sail and the progressive Roy's Riviera easily. Gr3 winning Joburg visitor She's A Giver ran on steadily to grab fourth cheque.

A R1,1 million BSA National Yearling Sale graduate, the Varsfontein Stud-bred Hashtagyolo races for Bruce le Roux and Tinus Gericke and is a daughter of champion producer Dynasty (Fort Wood) out of the one-time winner My Guiding Star (Jallad).

Unbeaten in three starts, Hashtagyolo took her stakes bank to R282 375.**Gr3 Flamboyant Stakes (F&M) 1600m**

Winner Hastagyolo (joint best handicapped) raced in midfield; led 180m; won going away

Runner-up Sail (joint best handicapped) set the pace; outrun latter stages

Third Roy's Riviera was drawn wide; cramped at the start losing 2 lengths; raced midfield; ran on

Time: Very steady early, then strung out, and later becoming very tightly bunched as they entered the straight - this was a very false paced slowly run affair.

We gave the runner up (prev 90/91/92/81/87) 93, which makes the winner (prev 71/89) 93 and the third (prev 74/73/85/85/87)87. Not ratings to rely on for future.

93 **1** 0.00 **HASHTAGYOLO** (8) 54.0 A Delpech 5/2
3 b f Dynasty - My Guiding Star (Jallad)
93 **2** 2.00 **SAIL** (3) 60.0 S Veale 6/1
4 b f Philanthropist - Cutty Sark (Fort Wood)
87 **3** 3.00 **ROY'S RIVIERA** (12) 54.0 W Kennedy 11/1
3 b f All Too Hard - Donna Amata(AUS) (Anabaa)
93 **4** 3.25 *She's A Giver* (6) 61.0 L Hewitson 7/2
84 **5** 4.25 *Fiorella* (9) 54.0 C Zackey 13/1
87 **6** 4.75 *Dawn Calling* (10) 60.0 A Marcus 9/1
86 **7** 5.25 *Karatage* (2) 60.0 S Brown 44/1
86 **8** 5.30 *Lala* (7) 60.0 D Schwarz 18/1
81 **9** 5.55 *Statute* (1) 54.0 K De Melo 6/1
77 **10** 7.55 *Awesomeness* (4) 54.0 D De Gouveia 28/1
73 **11** 11.05 *Dress For Success* (11) 60.0 G Wrogemann 66/1
71 **12** 11.80 *Call Me Winter* (5) 60.0 S Randolph 100/1
Time: *97.24s (60.78s avg/1000m, or 59km/h)* **SP Total %:** *118%*
1st **T:***D Kannemeyer* **O:***Mr Bruce Le Roux & Tinus Gericke*

FAIRVIEW (turf)
Wednesday, 3 January
Course Variant: 0,25s fast (bend)

36mm of irrigation was added to the 9mm of rain that fell during the previous seven days, but despite that the penetrometer still read 21, and the going was good. There was a 25km/h cross wind during the morning which changed (early in the afternoon) to a more moderate tail wind. The false rail was at zero and there was a 1.5m spur at the 800m.

Listed Lady's Bracelet R150,000

Snaith Grabs Three

Justin Snaith provided the Drakenstein Stud team with a welcome fillip in advance of the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate Festival Of Racing this weekend when the Captain Al filly Merysagos swept to an impressive win in the R150 000 Listed Lady's Bracelet at Fairview on Wednesday.

Grant van Niekerk rode all three Snaith winners at the midweek meeting, with Chris Snaith driving the float up the Garden Route and supervising proceedings.

Van Niekerk had the Drakenstein Stud owned and bred Merysagos well off the pace set by Cloud Atlas and Excellent. At the 350m marker locals Star Burst Galaxy and Beatabouttthebush moved forward dangerously, but were cut down in a matter of strides by the rampant maiden stakes winner, who went on to score by 1,50 lengths in a time of 95,19 secs

The 3yo is a daughter of Captain Al (Al Mufti) out of the well-related Candy Singer (Singspiel) – a half sister to champion miler, Candy Ride.

Merysagos has won 2 races with 6 places from 9 starts and stakes of R221 225.

Lady's Bracelet (F&M) (L) 1600m

Winner Merysagos raced in 10th entering the straight; led 100m; won going away

Runner-up Beatabouttthebush had to have the tongue tie refitted at the start; raced fifth entering the straight; led 200m; outpaced latter stages by winner

Third Star Burst Galaxy (2nd best handicapped) raced 3rd and held every chance

Time: This was the second fastest of the six races around the turn. Not an easy race to rate. We gave the third horse (prev 80/80/78/92/91) 83 which makes the winner (prev 73/74/75/79/84) 89 and the runner-up (prev 85/89/69/87/86) 92

K 247 **1** 0.00 **MERYSAGOS** (7) 53.0 G v Niekerk 5/1
3 b f Captain Al - Candy Singer(ARG) (Singspiel)
F 203 **2** 1.50 **BEATABOUTTHEBUSH** (3) 59.0 G Cheyne 13/2
4 b f Gimmethegreenlight - Bushra (Badger Land)
F 203 **3** 4.50 **STAR BURST GALAXY** (6) 58.0 C Murray 13/2
4 b f Var - Majestic Star (Doowaley)
F 161 **4** 4.75 *Cloud Atlas* (2) 53.0 JP vd Merwe 11/1
K 207 **5** 7.00 *Final Judgement* (8) 61.0 R Fourie 17/10
K 245 **6** 7.10 *Via Seattle* (10) 55.0 L Hewitson 7/1
K 258 **7** 8.35 *Party Crasher* (4) 58.0 L Mxothwa 19/1
F 171 **8** 10.60 *Excellent* (11) 58.0 C Zackey 36/1
F 207 **9** 10.85 *Anglet* (1) 58.0 X Ndlovu 19/1
F 213 **10** 12.85 *Tricia Dupont* (9) 58.0 K Minnie 100/1
F 204 **11** 14.10 *Chit Chat* (13) 58.0 K Zechner 50/1
F 178 **12** 24.85 *Christmas Carol* (12) 58.0 F Herholdt 66/1
F 203 **13** 35.85 *Well In Flight* (5) 58.0 R Munger 50/1
Time: *95.19s (59.49s avg/1000m, or 61km/h)* **SP Total %:** *120%*
1st **T:***J Snaith* **O:***Drakenstein Stud (Nom: Mrs G A Rupert)*
B:*Drakenstein Stud*

SCORE CARD

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 **full explanation** of the point system and the complete list of point earners is on the **Sporting Post website**.

TOP EARNERS for 2017/2018
(to 31 December 2017)

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

SIGNPOSTS

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

CRUSADE (Mr Greeley)
Be Happy 2f (Sauna's Rose by Tamburlaine)
Scottsville 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate (Fillies) 1000m (06/01)
Lady Abigail 2f (Lady Gray by Badger Land)
Scottsville 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate (Fillies) 1000m (06/01)

IRISH FLAME (Dynasty)
Tombola 2f (Fancy Flutter by Kahal)
Scottsville 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate (Fillies) 1000m (06/01)
Alien 2f (Extra Terrestral by Spaceship)
Scottsville 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate (Fillies) 1000m (06/01)

MASTER OF MY FATE (Jet Master)
Twist Of Fate 2c (Crescent Lily by Counter Action)
Kenilworth 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate 1000m (05/01)

NOBLE TUNE (Unbridled's Song)
Awesomely Tuned 2f (Awesome Beauty by Cataloochee)
Scottsville 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate (Fillies) 1000m (06/01)

THE APACHE (Mogok)
Potawatomi 2c (Crimson Fantasy by Crimson Waves)
Kenilworth 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate 1000m (05/01)
Adorable Analia 2f (Idilic Charm by In The Money)
Greyville 10 Barrier Trials (Polytrack) 1000m (05/01)

TWICE OVER (Observatory)
Doubled Over 2f (Countess Corlia by Count Dubois)
Kenilworth 2 Maiden Juvenile Plate (Fillies) 1000m (06/01)

WHAT A WINTER (Western Winter)
What A Captain 2c (Free Fall by Captain Al)
Kenilworth 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate 1000m (05/01)
Wonderful Winter 2c (Nella Fantasia by Giant's Causeway)
Kenilworth 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate 1000m (05/01)
Clouds Unfold 2f (Montelissima by Montjeu)
Kenilworth 2 Maiden Juvenile Plate (Fillies) 1000m (06/01)

2nd season sires - 3yo's

AWAIT THE DAWN (Giant's Causeway)
Come The Day 3c (Nadira by Nashwan)
Turffontein 2 Maiden Plate 1800m (07/01)
Before Noon 3c (Maritime Mist by Parade Leader)
Turffontein 2 Maiden Plate 1800m (07/01)

BYWORD (Peintre Celebre)
True Words 3c (Kalami by Daylami)
Kenilworth 2 MR 64 Handicap 1200m (05/01)
Zenzero 3c (Falana by Announce)
Greyville 8 MR 64 Handicap (Polytrack) 1600m (05/01)
Fly By Skye 3c (Wings Over Skye by Jet Master)
Scottsville 5 MR 72 Handicap 1750m (06/01)
Speak Soon 3f (Woodland Spirit by Fort Wood)
Turffontein 1 Maiden Plate (F&M) 1400m (07/01)
Bellatrix 3f (World Of Stars by Sportsworld)
Turffontein 1 Maiden Plate (F&M) 1400m (07/01)

CRUSADE (Mr Greeley)
Indian Maid 3f (Betty's Bay by West Man)
Scottsville 3 Maiden Plate (F&M) 1600m (06/01)
Slightly Scottish 3c (Lilly Pilly by Diesis)
Scottsville 5 MR 72 Handicap 1750m (06/01)
Velvet Dawn 3f (Harolds Gold by Fort Wood)
Kenilworth 10 MR 74 Handicap (F&M) 1200m (06/01)
Wings Of Honor 3f (Flyingwithoutwings by Jet Master)
Kenilworth 10 MR 74 Handicap (F&M) 1200m (06/01)
Chiara 3f (Aqueduct by Giant's Causeway)
Turffontein 1 Maiden Plate (F&M) 1400m (07/01)
Gonnafly 3c (Ruby Eaglechild by Manshood)
Turffontein 4 Progress Plate 1600m (07/01)
Cantata Mundi 3f (Onda Punk by Punk)
Turffontein 9 Maiden Plate 2850m (07/01)

EIGHTFOLD PATH (Giant's Causeway)
Noble Duke 3c (Reigning Queen by King of Kings)
Greyville 6 MR 64 Handicap (Polytrack) 1200m (05/01)
Passing Image 3c (Imperial Image by King of Kings)
Greyville 10 Barrier Trials (Polytrack) 1000m (05/01)
Three Ships 3f (Scotch Cat by Mogok)
Scottsville 4 Maiden Plate (F&M) 1600m (06/01)

MARCHFIELD (A P Indy)
Spring Man 3c (Diorella by Fort Wood)
Kenilworth 3 MR 64 Handicap 2000m (06/01)

ORATORIO (Danehill)
Storm Racer 3c (Stormy Coast by Fort Wood)
Greyville 3 Qualified Maiden Plate (Polytrack) 1200m (05/01)
Tally-Ho 3f (State Coach by Jet Master)
Kenilworth 4 Maiden Plate (F&M) 1600m (05/01)
Chantyman 3c (Sea Of Calm by Quiet American)
Greyville 7 MR 84 Handicap (Polytrack) 1400m (05/01)
Arianos Bagofgold 3c (Heritage Wood by Var)
Greyville 7 MR 84 Handicap (Polytrack) 1400m (05/01)
Tyrandeus 3c (Bella Nero by Caesour)
Kenilworth 8 Maiden Plate 1600m (05/01)
Hadarat 3c (Muhtaram by Al Mufti)
Kenilworth 8 Maiden Plate 1600m (05/01)
Tuulikki 3f (Smangaliso by Kahal)
Greyville 10 Barrier Trials (Polytrack) 1000m (05/01)
Love Theme 3f (Lewinsky's Lover by Jallad)
Scottsville 6 MR 76 Handicap (F&M) 1000m (06/01)

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SIGNPOSTS

Opera Royal 3c (Fakazi by Albarahin)
Kenilworth 8 Gr3 Politician Stakes (3yo's) 1800m (06/01)
Ancestry 3c (A Daughters Legacy by Windrush)
Kenilworth 8 Gr3 Politician Stakes (3yo's) 1800m (06/01)
Orakal 3c (Kalaam by Kahal)
Kenilworth 8 Gr3 Politician Stakes (3yo's) 1800m (06/01)
Ontario 3c (Nuttallii by Red Ransom)
Turffontein 2 Maiden Plate 1800m (07/01)
Burano 3c (Bandera Nativa by Bernstein)
Turffontein 10 Maiden Plate 1400m (07/01)

TWICE OVER (Observatory)
Doublemint 3c (Nepeta by Tale of the Cat)
Kenilworth 8 Gr3 Politician Stakes (3yo's) 1800m (06/01)
Run Red 3c (Foxtrot Baby by Lizard Island)
Kenilworth 8 Gr3 Politician Stakes (3yo's) 1800m (06/01)
Twice A Lady 3f (Ladonna by Kabool)
Turffontein 1 Maiden Plate (F&M) 1400m (07/01)

WHAT A WINTER (Western Winter)
Magical Wonderland 3f (Magical Miss by Al Mufti)
Kenilworth 7 Gr2 Sceptre Stakes (F&M) 1200m (05/01)
Imagine That 3f (Tickle My Fancy by Fort Wood)
Scottsville 4 Maiden Plate (F&M) 1600m (06/01)

Notable Maiden Winners

ORATORIO
Rated AR 85 **Van Halen** (2c Rock Concert by Lecture)
Maiden Juvenile Plate Turffontein (stand side) (800m) (23/12)
Although it's impossible at this stage to determine exactly what Van Halen was up against here, this son of Oratorio couldn't have been more impressive. Soon at the head of affairs, Corne Spies' charge drew clear in good style over the final 400m and won very easily by seven and three quarters.

STREET CRY
Rated AR 71 **Mutrib** (3c Dane Belltar by Danewin)
Maiden Plate Turffontein (stand side) (1400m) (30/12)
Sent off a well-supported favourite, Mike De Kock's charge wasn't the quickest into stride when the gates opened and raced in the backend of midfield early on. Once given rein though he quickened well, and won going away after striking the front 200m from home.

VAR
Rated AR 76 **Val-La-Ree** (2f Colchium by Elnadim)
Maiden Juvenile Plate (fillies) Scottsville (800m) (24/12)
Easy to back at 15/1 on the off, this daughter of Var led throughout. She asserted her authority shortly after passing halfway and won going away by four.

Horses To Follow

HIGH CHAPARRAL
Rated AR 94 **Cascapedia** (4f Janoubi by Dansili)
Pinnacle Stakes (F&M) Turffontein (stand side) (1800m) (23/12)
Behind at weight for age, Mike De Kock's charge showed good improvement here and has now won four of her five career starts. Soon up handy, Cascapedia took up the running 200m out, and beat a very useful looking field going away by three and three quarters.

LONHRO
Rated AR 102 **Alfolk** (3g Alteza Real by Exceed And Excel)
Gr3 Lebelo Sprint Turffontein (stand side) (1000m) (30/12)
Now a winner of four from nine, Mike De Kock's charge was soon positioned close to the speed. He ran on strongly at the business end of the race and only having to be pushed out won well by a length and a quarter.

DYNASTY
Rated AR 93 **Hashtagyolo** (3f My Guiding Star by Jallad)
Gr3 Flamboyant Stakes Greyville (turf) (1600m) (31/12)
Now unbeaten in three starts, Dean Kannemeyer's charge has been going from strength to strength since making her debut just three months ago. Confidently ridden by her regular partner Anthony Delpech, Hastagyolo ran on well from her position in midfield and after striking the front 180m out, won going away.

Winners Bred Abroad

another AUSHORSE winner
Alfolk (AUS) 3g Lonhro- Alteza Real(AUS) (Exceed And Excel)
Turffontein 1000m (30/12)

another AUSHORSE winner
Mutrib (AUS) 3c Street Cry- Dane Belltar(AUS) (Danewin)
Turffontein 1400m (30/12)

another AUSHORSE winner
Meraki (AUS) 3c Canford Cliffs- Aerate's Joy(AUS) (Bel Esprit)
Durbanville 1400m (01/01)

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.

Check the race results on this page

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

On A High

The Mike de Kock-trained Cascapedia is one of our 'Horses To Follow' on the preceding page and the Irish-bred galloper is headed in the right direction.

A winner of 4 of her 5 starts to date, Jessica Slack's' galloper is Northern Hemisphere bred and thus six months behind her same age opposition.

A €170 000 Goffs Orby Yearling Sale purchase by Jehan Malherbe's Form Bloodstock, Cascapedia has earned over R460 000 and looks set to build on her Gr3 Yellowwood Handicap success , achieved last November.

Bred by Camas Park Stud, she is a daughter of 2002 Epsom Derby winner High Chaparral out of the unraced Dansili mare Janoubi.

The late High Chaparral's racing career included two victories at Breeders' Cup meetings in the United States, plus an Irish Champion Stakes triumph. High Chaparral produced So You Think, who won the Cox Plate in Australia and is a present day Coolmore stallion.

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EFL Cup

EFL Cup: Semi-Final, 1st Leg Preview

The 1st leg semi-finals of the Carabao Cup sees Championship side Manchester City host Bristol City on Tuesday, while London rivals Chelsea and Arsenal will meet again, this time at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday.

To catch up with Chadley Nagel previews CLICK HERE

TUESDAY 9 JANUARY

1/8 Manchester City | Draw 7/1 | Bristol City 15/1(21:45)
With all due respect to Bristol City, the three top sides were all hoping to get them in the semi-finals but Manchester City were the lucky ones. Pep Guardiola's star-studded side are overwhelming favourites to advance to the final, but the Robins should be taken seriously, after all they did knock out holders Manchester United. Bristol City, from English football's second-tier, really fought hard to get this far. After thrashing League One side Plymouth Argyle 5-0 at Ashton Gate Stadium, they came up against Premier League opposition, beating Watford 3-2 at Vicarage Road, before kicking out Stoke City (2-0), Crystal Palace (4-1) and Manchester United (2-1) in front of their fans. **Take the runaway Premier League leaders on the Half-time/ Full-time Win at 9/20.**

WEDNESDAY 10 JANUARY

8/10 Chelsea | 11/4 | Arsenal 31/10(22:00)
Chelsea and Arsenal renew their rivalry at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday night. The sides played to a goalless draw in the Premier League here in September, but Antonio Conte will want to get the better of Arsene Wenger this time. The last time these sides faced each other in the League Cup was in 2013 when goals from Spaniards Juan Mata and Cesar Azpilicueta gave the Blues a 2-0 victory at the Emirates Stadium. Chelsea are unbeaten in their last six home meetings against the Gunners, winning five times. In those games, they scored 15 goals while conceding just twice. Conte's side have played all three of their League Cup matches at home, hammering Nottingham Forest 5-1 before beating Everton and Bournemouth, both by 2-1 scorelines. **It should be a tight game, but Chelsea are tipped to win the first leg.**

DOUBLE @ 16/10
Man City HT-FT Win 9/20 Chelsea Win 8/10

MISSED RECENT RESULTS? Click here for a quick link to the Sporting Post website

CLOCKWATCHING WITH STEVE FURNISH

Shopping For Discounts

A REVIEW OF THE WEEK'S BEST SPEEDRATINGS

Behind At Weight For Age

Turffontein 23 December

The first maiden juvenile races in the province took place on Saturday and both divisions had very easy winners. The quicker of the two 800m scurries was the boy's affair in which VAN HALEN couldn't have been more impressive. Backed into favouritism at the track, the son of Oratorio put his head in front going through the 600m and after quickly drawing clear, he cruised in by seven and three quarters.

It was a similar story in the girl's affair where Van Halen's stable companion MISS BOOMERANG did the business. Also backed into favouritism, Corne Spies Charge led throughout. She was always in command and won unchallenged by four and a half.

Four of the afternoon's ten races were staged over 1160m and stopping the clock in the fastest time amongst these was PURE BLONDE in the MR89 Handicap. Another to win from the front, Alec Laird's charge led by a length and a half for most of the journey. He kept on strongly over the final 400m and although DONNY G did manage to make some headway, he couldn't get closer than a length at the wire.

Titbits

Behind at weight for age, the 4yo CASCAPEDIA showed considerable improvement when easily accounting for her eight rivals in the pinnacle stakes over 1800m. Mike De Kock's charge has now won four from five and clearly has a bright future ahead of her.

Horses For Courses

Scottsville 24 December

A maiden juvenile plate over 800m got proceedings underway in Pietermaritzburg on Sunday and here we saw a smart performance from the newcomer VAL-La-Ree. Freely available at 15/1 on the off, the daughter of Var led throughout. She was always in command and won without any anxious moments by four.

Three of the afternoon's eight races were run over 1200m and stopping the clock in the fastest time amongst these was LONDON CALL in the bill topping pinnacle stakes. Another to make virtually all, Mark Dixon's charge was allowed a 2,5 lengths advantage for most of the journey. The visiting TALKTOTHESTARS did close the gap to a half over the final 200m, but he was held at the wire. London Call has now won seven of his ten outings over this course and distance.

The faster of the two 1600m races was the MR74 Handicap in which REDEEMER registered his second career victory. Having his first outing since relocating from the Western Cape Brett Crawford's charge was drawn wide and raced in midfield early on. He put his head in front going through the 300m and won comfortably by two from the running on DARK MOON RISING.

Titbits

The 5yo SAINT MARCO ran on well from midfield when getting up late to win the MR84 Handicap over 1600m

More Than Enough

Greyville 26 December

Wednesday afternoon's action took place on the turf where the first four races on the card were all staged over 1400m. The MR62 Handicap for the girls was the fastest of these and here the Kildonan filly CELESTIAL GOLD found her best form. Positioned in the rear when the race began in earnest, Celestial Gold ran on best of all and won going away by a length.

Next up were two 1000m races and in by far the faster of these SWAKOPMUND registered his fifth career victory. Easy to back at 13/1 on the off, Dennis Drier's charge was soon positioned up with the speed. He ran on strongly in the short home straight and with the benefit of first run, he comfortably accounted for the running on CAPTAIN'S GIRL by two.

The remaining three races on the card were all run over 1600m and quickest home here was the 3yo ROY HAD ENOUGH in the feature event, the listed Christmas Handicap. Drawn wide, Frank Robinson's charge wasn't the quickest into stride when the gates opened and raced in the rear. Once given rein though he quickened well, and won going away by two and three quarters after striking the front

Last Week's Top Rated SPEED RATINGS winners incl.

Pure Blonde	won 13/1
Alraune	won 5/1
Flight Club	won 9/2
Making Miracles	won 33/10
Pearl Jam	won 17/10
London Call	won 15/10
Pata Pata	won 14/10
Mirwa	won 19/20

Top speed ratings *for this weekend*

(Ratings shown have already been adjusted to allocated weights)

KENILWORTH (FRI)
Race 1: (3) Elusive Kat 3
Race 2: (2) True Words 29
Race 3: (5) Miss Katalin 85
Race 4: (2) Star Evolution 12
Race 5: (10) Milden Spell 59
Race 6: (10) Adorada 83
Race 7: (2) Jo's Bond 89
Race 8: (2) Streetfighting Man 19

GREYVILLE (FRI)
Race 1: (2) O'reilly 21
Race 2: (5) Ataturk 51
Race 3: (6) Land Of The Gods 14
Race 4: (1) Symphony In Seven 24
Race 5: (5) Fire The Rocket 53
Race 6: (2) Elusive Wolf 32
Race 7: (9) Gadget Man 67
Race 8: (6) Fantasy Art 45 (EW)
Race 9: (9) Dom Seguidor 37

KENILWORTH (SAT)
Race 1: (6) The Boston Rose 19
Race 2: (2) Be Yourself 1
Race 3: (6) Paddington 33
Race 4: (5) My World 83
Race 5: (12) Turbulent Air 92
Race 6: (1) Nother Russia 84
Race 7: (1) Legal Eagle 101
Race 8: (7) Doublemint 51
Race 9: (8) Pillar Of Hercules 75
Race 10: (6) Wedgwood 45

SCOTTSVILLE (SAT)
Race 1: (8) Tombola 15
Race 2: (7) Biometric 14
Race 3: (6) Electropop 14
Race 4: (1) Roman Courtesan 6
Race 5: (13) Caprivi 52
Race 6: (4) Seattle Oak 46
Race 7: (1) Muscatt 84
Race 8: (11) Dundrum 50

TURFFONTEIN (SUN)
Race 1: (14) Poormanslady 10
Race 2: (3) Mackbool 21
Race 3: (3) Pera Palace 74
Race 4: (2) Social Order 76
Race 5: (10) Kilauea 88
Race 6: (6) Seerite 67 (NAP*)
Race 7: (5) French Navy 96
Race 8: (7) Witchcraft 78
Race 9: (6) Mario Lanza 21
Race 10: (1) Imperial Ounce 29

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

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CLOCKWATCHING CONT.

150m from home.

Titbits

After being slow into stride, EMPRESS VALLEY ran on well from the rear when third to the easy winner KAZAAR in the opening maiden plate over 1400m.

Plenty Of Heart

Kenilworth 27 December

In terms of prize money, the MR84 Handicap marginally topped the bill in Cape Town and in what surprisingly was the slower of the two 1000m events on the card, TRIP THE WILLOW registered her third career victory. Always one to run on stoutly from off the pace, this daughter of Trippi came from the rear and won going away.

By far the faster of the two 1400m races on the card was the progress plate for 3yo's won by ELUSIVE HEART. Soon at the head of affairs, Glen Kotzen's charge raced clear throughout. She ran on strongly over the final 400m and with a ton in hand won easing up by three and a quarter.

They also ran two races over 2000m and quickest home here was the progressive MADE TO CONQUER in the MR76 Handicap. Allowed to ease at the track as money came for BIG PARADE, Justin Snaith's charge was always handy. He commenced battle with the money horse 200m out and asserted his authority late to score by a length and a quarter.

Titbits

Now a winner of two from five, the 3yo FRANKING won the MR64 Handicap over 2000m easing down by six and a quarter.

Music To The Ears

Vaal 28 December

They raced on the classic track on Thursday where somewhat surprisingly six of the afternoon's nine races were run over 1700m. The MR66 Handicap was the fastest of these and here we saw a very easy victory for the 5yo WEST COAST WARRIOR. Easy to back at 18/1 on the off Sean Tarry's charge raced in midfield early on. He ran on well down the long straight and cruised clear to score by four and a quarter after striking the front 200m from home.

The only other distance to stage more than one race was 1000m where REBEL'S CHAMP was quickest home. At the head of affairs before halfway, the 7/1 shot kept on strongly at the business end of the race to beat the running on favourite MARMOOK by three quarters.

A MR79 Handicap over 1500m made up the afternoon's fare and here we saw a smart performance from the highly regarded PIETRO MASCAGNI. Backed into favouritism at the track, Mike De Kock's charge raced ninth of the ten for most of the journey. He quickened best of all when asked for his effort and won going away with some in hand.

Titbits

COSTA DA SOL ran on best of all when getting up late to win the MR78 Handicap over 1700m.

Notebook *Horses worth following at their next few starts...*

CASCAPEDIA (M De Kock, Gauteng)
PIETRO MASCAGNI (M De Kock, Gauteng)

FASTEST TIMES

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

TURFFONTEIN (STAND SIDE) 23 DECEMBER
Penetrometer 27 – Going Soft
Course Variant: 0,63s slow

800m (2) Van Halen	45,60
1160m (4) Pure Blonde	67,26
1400m (1) Flowing Gown	86,80
1800m (1) Cascapedia	112,24
2000m (2) Horseplay	127,03

SCOTTSVILLE (INSIDE) 24 DECEMBER
Penetrometer 26 – Going G/Soft
Course Variant: 0,38s fast

800m (1) Val-La-Ree	45,92
1200m (3) London Call	67,60
1600m (2) Redeemer	94,89
1950m (2) Coys	122,77

GREYVILLE (TURF) 26 DECEMBER
Penetrometer 21 – Going Good
Course Variant: 0,05s fast

1000m (2) Swakopmund	57,84
1400m (4) Celestial Gold	83,40
1600m (3) Roy Had Enough	95,94

KENILWORTH (NEW) 27 DECEMBER
Penetrometer 21 – Going Good
Course Variant: 0,98s slow

1000m (2) Pata Pata	60,05
1400m (2) Elusive Heart	88,00
1600m (1) Glamorous Life	101,83
1700m (1) Tsitsikamma Dance	108,88
2000m (2) Made To Conquer	127,32

VAAL (CLASSIC) 28 DECEMBER
Penetrometer 23 – Going Good
Course Variant: 0,18s fast

1000m (2) Rebel's Champ	56,42
1500m (1) Pietro Mascagni	89,64
1700m (6) West Coast Warrior	102,47

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