



It was a year of great achievements on the track and turmoil and change in the boardrooms. But most of all, bright new hope for bigger and better things in the sales ring and beyond in 2019. Here are some of the random memories...



January – Sun Shines

Drakenstein bred and owned Street Cry daughter Oh Susanna becomes the first filly in over a century to win the Gr1 Sun Met – run for the first time under weight-for-age conditions. Ridden by Grant van Niekerk she is also trainer Justin Snaith's first winner of the race.

APRIL - CRYING OFF

Team Valor International's Barry Irwin pulls out of South African racing after being frustrated by the perceived lack of progress on the export protocols front. He was quoted as saying that he had tried to make heads or tails - and even tales - out of the strategies. He suggested that no matter what one heard or read, 'progress is considerably less rosy than it has been portrayed'.

May – Dirty Harry

The curtain comes down on the Highveld Season on 5 May with the Champions Day programme and 24 hours earlier the SA Champions Season launches at Greyville. Harold Crawford's Cape raider Perovskia pulls off a shock winning the Gr2 Drill Hall Stakes. He is subsequently sold to Mauritius.

FEBRUARY - FAB PHIL

Philanthropist's smart son Singapore Sling scores a smart win in the HK\$10 million Hong Kong Classic Cup run over 1800m at Sha Tin in front of a crowd of 90 000.

March - Making Up

The popular Winning Ways Show hosted by Paul Lafferty and James Goodman is broadcast from brand new studios at Greyville for the first time. A real make-up artist is also present for the first time – which seems strange, as nobody looks any different seven months down the line.

June – At Last

The 2016 Sun Met winner Smart Call finally breaks the ice on her international campaign when she romps to victory under Jim Crowley in the Gr3 Stobart Energy Hoppings Fillies' Stakes over 2000m at Newcastle.



AUGUST - CHAMPIONS

Apprentice Lyle Hewitson is crowned SA Champion jockey at Equus and follows in the footsteps of Michael Roberts, who also won our national jockeys championship while still an apprentice. Roberts achieved the feat in the 1972-73 season, although he attained his full jockey's license in June of 1973.

September In Singapore

Cape champion jockey Aldo Domeyer is crowned victor ludorum against all the odds in the inaugural PGI Jockeys Challenge in Singapore. Domeyer, Lyle Hewitson and Muzi Yeni were the rainbow warriors representing SA.

July: Superman Rules

Anton Marcus makes history with his fifth Vodacom Durban July success on Twice Over star Do It Again to register the 101st Gr1 win of his illustrious career.

October Strike

Phumelela stage the first professional race in SA history where jockeys are not permitted to use whips – or crops, as we prefer to call them. The move to ban their use in the sport is gaining momentum in the UK and it has found a lot of support in South Africa. The race is won by Mike de Kock's Hawwaam, who goes on to win the Dingaans impressively.

November Fame

The announcement is made by Phumelela that horseracing history is set to be written on 16 January 2019 when the first superstars from the racing fraternity will be inducted into the South African Hall of Fame. This is said to be arguably the most important moment in the history of South African horseracing.

Vee For Victory

On 3 December, the NHA announce the appointment of Phumelela Executive Vee Moodley as CEO of the beleaguered racing regulator. His position is taken by Rob Scott. On 11 December, Robert Bloomberg and Mark Currie are elected joint Chairmen of Kenilworth Racing in an unprecedented move to unify the North and South and to pick Cape racing up from the turf. Bloomberg is the Grandson of the late legendary Cape Turf Club Chairman Abe Bloomberg. It's a big month all round as the Gr2 Green Point Stakes won by Legal Eagle has the racing world buzzing and Mike de Kock smashes Terrance Millard's Gr1 winner record to make it 118 when Soqratt wins the Cape Guineas.

