



**3** Three horses by non SA-based sires have won the Met this century. In 2012 Galileo daughter Igugu beat Bravura. In 2017, Manhattan Rain's gelded son Whisky Baron held off Legal Eagle, while Street Cry daughter and reigning SA Horse Of The Year Oh Susanna staved off a flying Last Winter in 2018. The off-shore Dads have Hat Puntano (Hat Trick) and Oh Susanna carrying the international flag on Saturday.



Whisky Baron – Met 2017

**7** Saturday's Met trainers have 7 Met titles between them. The only man to win it in both the 20th and 21st century, is Vaughan Marshall, who saddles Tap O'Noth. He won it in 1996 with La Fabulous and in 2014 with Hill Fifty Four. The winningmost current trainer is Brett Crawford, who has Undercover Agent carrying his flag. He won the race in 2003 with Angus, in 2015 with Futura and in 2017 with Whisky Baron. Sean Tarry, the man behind Legal Eagle's illustrious career, won the Met in 2005 with Alastor. Justin Snaith, who saddles 4 of the 13 runners on Saturday, won it last year with Oh Susanna.



La Fabulous - Met 1996



The field size numbers 13 runners on Saturday – 20 could have run. In 2018 when the Met was run for the first time at weight-for-age it attracted a capacity field for the first time in 24 years. Strange how theories work sometimes!

**4** Only 4 of the 13 jockeys riding on Saturday have won the Met previously. Bernard Fayd'herbe, who rides Oh Susanna, is the winningmost rider, having won it three times – Pocket Power in 2008 and 2009, and more recently with Futura in 2015. Anton Marcus partners Rainbow Bridge and is the only jockey in the 2019 renewal to have won the race in two centuries – in 1993 with Empress Club and again in 2014 on Hill Fifty Four. Piere Strydom rides Doublemint and won it in 2003 on Angus for Sabine Plattner – who has Head Honcho and Kampala Campari running on Saturday. Aldo Domeyer rides Kampala Campari and is the fourth rider with a Met title – that was in 2013 on outsider Martial Eagle.

**5**

While the deceased champion Jet Master is the Met's winningmost sire of the 21st century - his offspring won it an extraordinary five years running from 2007 with Pocket Power's glorious hat-trick, through to River Jetez (2010) and Past Master (2011) - only three sires with past winners are represented on Saturday. Dynasty (Futura in 2015) has Eyes Wide Open and Magnificent Seven, Ideal World (Smart Call in 2016) has Rainbow Bridge, while Captain Al (Hill Fifty Four in 2014) has Tap O'Noth running for him.

*Twenty Three*



Empress Club - Met 1993

Fillies and mares have a 23% strike-rate in the Met over the past 30 years. Terrance Millard saddled Olympic Duel in 1991 and Empress Club in 1993. In 1998, the now Australia based David Payne won it with Imperious Sue. This century, River Jetez, whose daughter Delta Queen (#152) was selling at Wednesday's Cape Premier Yearling Sale, won in 2010 to give Mike Bass an unmatched four consecutive Met strikes on the trot. Mike de Kock saddled champion Igugu to win in 2012, while Alec Laird sent out Smart Call in 2016 and Justin Snaith won his first ever Met with Oh Susanna in 2018.

**46**

It was 46 years ago that the Met was first run at weight-for-age plus penalties to 'bolster interest'. The race was won by longshot son of Escort 11, Gold Flame, trained by Terrance D'Arcy with Dana Siegenberg in the saddle.

**116**

When Oh Susanna won the Met in 2018 she earned an exalted place in South African racing history by becoming the first three-year-old filly in 116 years to lift the prized trophy. The previous 3yo fairer sex galloper was Chair Lady in 1902. Can Oh Susanna make history on Saturday – carrying 6,5kgs more?

**129**

The tote has been legalised in the Cape for 129 years. On Saturday the Pick 6 pool alone is expected to surpass R10 million!

**50 000**

A crowd of 50 000 people crammed into Kenilworth in 2002 and the house full signs went up. The race was won by the Freedom Land gelding Polo Classic for trainer Terry Lowe and jockey Barend Vorster.

**4 967 900**

When the Noble Chieftain 6yo Peter Beware was ridden by the late Bert Abercrombie to win the Met 50 years ago, the stake was R32 100. That's R4 967 900 less than they race for on Saturday.