

SHONGWENI MIXED SALE

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TUESDAY
26 FEBRUARY

Shongweni Polo Grounds, KZN

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Thursday 14 February 2019
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digest

RACING

THIS WEEKEND

FAIRVIEW POLY Friday
Best Roving Banker:
R4-(3)Bakkies(4/1)

TURFFONTEIN Saturday
Best Roving Banker:
R2-(3) Vontreo (7/10)

KENILWORTH Saturday
Best Roving Banker:
R4-(4)Swift Surprise(5/1)

SCOTTSVILLE Sunday
Best Roving Banker:
R4-(10) Mr Fitz (16/10)

You may have missed...

Wednesday 13 February
Greyville- race 3

Sporting Post
Best Handicapped
Miesque Sunrise
WON 22/1 ☺



RAISING THE BAR

The principle of ever having a non-racing man at the helm of our racing regulator seems ludicrous and almost reckless against the background the great strides made in just a matter of six weeks by the new NHA CEO.

The National Horseracing Authority has transcended from years of darkness into a lighter brighter space in a matter of weeks in 2019.

And much on a par with the current Eskom 'what were we thinking' ideology, it is difficult to rationalise what the Board of our regulator were trying to achieve when they employed the 'inspirational leader and change agent with a wealth of experience gained in various operational strategic positions held in various industries' back in March 2016.

Just as Lyndon Barends was always a sitting duck during his 30 months in the hot seat, his new age replacement Vee Moodley is a man who carries a loaded gun, talks turkey and gets things done.

One of Vee's immediate goals in his new role was to introduce a high-performance culture and ensure that the NHA lived up to its mission statement of maintaining the integrity of the sport of horseracing. "Strengthening the Executive and Management teams was high on my agenda, as is ensuring that the transformation goals of the organisation are accomplished within a reasonable time-frame," he said, while unpacking his bag on his first day at office.

Speaking to the Sporting Post on a snap Valentine's Day catch-up six weeks later, Vee said that one of his first goals had been an attempt to shift in-house attitudes from a 'less is more' attitude to one of 'more is still not enough'.

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RIDGEMONT

HIGHLANDS

RAISING THE BAR

“With every respect to those that went before me, my focus is on transparency and information. We are the racing public’s and stakeholder’s servants. The industry pays our salaries. When we are asked questions we must give answers. It’s an open door policy. Full stop.”

He said that besides Racing Control and Handicapping, the Stud Book department was a top priority. He committed the South African Stud Book to maintaining its status of ‘Approved Thoroughbred Stud Book’ to requirements mandated by the EASBC in an audit and to be achieved by 31 July .

Even the Stipes Reports are already reflecting more information and the recently introduced handicapper’s reports on the Gr1 races analysis is a step to inform and educate.

“A lack of information and education can only build barriers between ourselves and the industry. Previously handicapping decisions were made and that was it. Now everybody can see our thinking and rationale and we are answerable – as we should be,” he said.

Vee says there is great progress on the aspect of bringing the Grooms onto the books of the NHA. He pointed out the NHA rules sub sections 11.2.9, 12. 1 and 12.2, covering Trainers, Grooms and adherence to the Basic Conditions of Employment Act.

“We have had discussions and once we have confirmation of the majority representative body for Grooms in South Africa, we will be making further announcements.”

The upgrading of the results and merit ratings information on the NHA website has been further enhanced by the publication of the line horse.

“This is a good example where an informed member of the public made the suggestion via the Sporting Post comments platform. That’s where the attitude has changed - we are prepared to listen and to act – and we have had a host of suggestions that have been really constructive from a variety of sources.”

The calling in of jockeys by the Stipes after recent features and the consequent tweeting of the information had also been designed to show transparency and proactivity.

“The Stipes now also have all the betting websites streaming live in the boardroom during the raceday. We need to learn to follow this information and use it. Joe Public is attached to the sport and very informed. And whereas he punts or owns horses, NHA officials are not permitted to do either and thus, unsurprisingly, tend to be detached. We need to change that and become part of the heart of the game from a regulatory viewpoint.”

He added that the NHA had been accused at times of being too lenient.

“We need to work on upgrading our performance to best world practice and close the gap. We have some top class experienced personnel and it will just take time.”

He cited the example of the decisive action on the part of the NHA in relation to the 15 January eligibility question of Sugoi’s Assessment Plate win. After the race a trainer had pointed out that in terms of Local conditions pertaining to assessment races on the Highveld, he was of the opinion that the winner had not met its obligation of participating in two assessment plates before being allowed to run in a handicap on the Highveld. The NHA had ruled that should a winner of a maiden race within its first five starts compete in any race for which it is eligible in another province, that race will count as one of the said horse’s mandatory assessment runs.

Vee realises that his job doesn’t come with a popularity badge.

“We are independent and cannot take sides in any instance. From day one we have played open cards with the public, our stakeholders and the media. And that, believe it or not, makes the job a lot easier!”

SATURDAY RACING

When Racing Is A Rush!**Gr3 Tommy Hotspur Handicap Turffontein**

The Gr3 Tommy Hotspur Handicap headlines the Turffontein standside track programme on Saturday and provides a tricky 1000m handicap puzzle where a hesitant start or a split second decision could mean the difference between a cheque and a hard-luck story.



Rivarine | JC Photos

Formerly with trainer Brett Crawford out at Philippi, the speedy Var colt Valbonne has his first run for Roy Wagner and looks quite nicely in off the 52kg marker. While he was well beaten by subsequent Cape Flying Championship star Kasimir in the Cape Merchants at his penultimate start, Valbonne showed more enthusiasm when showing pace and beaten into fourth behind Speedpoint in the South Easter Sprint last time. He should strip fit and ready for a big effort with a change of scenery set to recharge his batteries.

Dennis Bosch brings the superfast Chantymen up from KZN and makes use of in-form rider Warren Kennedy. The 4yo son of Oratorio has a throat issue that makes him brilliant over 1000m – but he doesn’t go an inch further. This is his first big test and as a fit and in-form raider he ranks a serious chance.

Clinton Binda’s Premier Show races fresh off a 23 week break when chasing Chimichuri Run home in the Spring Spree Stakes. With only 52kgs to shoulder, the son of Mog-ok could have a say in the outcome at best.

Mike Azzie’s Golden Loom Stakes winner Rivarine gets the blinkers fitted and ran a nice third behind Rebel’s Champ in the Lebelo Sprint last time out. The son of Var meets the Paul Peter topweight on 2kgs better terms for a 1,90 length defeat and should be right in the mix.

It looks quite tough for the rest.

Alec Laird’s Pure Blonde has not shown any form signs recently and would be a surprise winner.

Much the same applies to Candice Dawson’s Rocky Valley who returns from the Cape empty handed after the Cape Flying Championship on Met day and is formless for some time.

Much the same references apply to the likes of Isphan, Tandava, Cathedral County and Down To Zero.

Robbie Hill tries his luck with the smart Red Chesnut Road who travels from Summerveld after an 11 week break. He drops down to the 1000m in an interesting move.

Sean Tarry’s good mare Exquisite Touch is a class sprinter on her day. She has stayed on well at both her starts this term and could surprise with improved fitness.

Grant Maroun has a top record in this race having won it twice in three runnings with Viking Hero (2016) and the filly Wrecking Ball (2017). He saddles Donny G and the newly blinkered Great Shaka – both quick customers. Great Shaka’s headgear should see him tearing away up front and the preference is for him.

Course and distance specialist Rebel’s Champ has to lumber 62kgs and has his first start since an unsuccessful tilt at the

SATURDAY RACING

Gr3 Tommy Hotspur Hcp
past winners

2016			
1 Viking Hero	52.5	(9)	20/1
2 Splendid Garden	57.5	(5)	5/1
3 Moofeed	58.5	(8)	3/1
2017			
1 Wrecking Ball	53.0	(4)	13/1
2 Dollar Dazzler	58.5	(12)	9/1
3 Queen Laurie	52.0	(3)	18/1
2018			
1 Champagne Haze	61.0	(15)	18/1
2 Greasepaint	53.5	(14)	12/1
3 Pure Blonde	57.5	(12)	113/20

Cape Flying Championship on Met day. He is a gutsy sort but has it all to do with that back-breaking impost.

Prince Of Kahal ran a smart race in the Lebelo when chasing Rebel's Champ home. Beaten 0,30 lengths there, he is a half kilo worse off here – and will enjoy the quick pace.

A handicap where there should be little separating the top few in the

rush to the wire. Our preference is for Valbonne to make it a winning Joburg debut at the expense of Rivarine and the ever reliable Rebel's Champ.

START
3:55PM
TURFFONTEIN

7

PA5/PICK SIX/JACKPOT3
Gr3 TOMMY HOTSPUR HANDICAP - 1000M
SAME TRAINER: (3-5)(6-13-14)(12-16)

Rebel King	1 REBEL'S CHAMP (PA Peter) C Herrera Gomez..	13	62.0
Var	2 EXQUISITE TOUCH (SG Tarry) L Hewitson.....	12	57.0
Var	3 RIVARINE (MG & AA Azzie) G Lerena.....	16	57.0
Pathfork	4 RED CHESNUT ROAD (RA Hill/SR Hill) P Strydom..	8	56.0
Judpot	5 DOWN TO ZERO (MG & AA Azzie) M v Rensburg..	7	55.5
Kahal	6 PRINCE OF KAHAL (RR Magner) M Yeni.....	6	55.5
Kahal	7 PURE BLONDE (AG Laird) R Simons.....	14	55.0
Seventh Rock	8 ROCKY VALLEY (C Dawson) C Zackey.....	5	54.5
Trippi	9 CATHEDRAL COUNTY (JAJ v Vuuren) C Habib....	3	53.0
Century Stand	10 TANDAVA (GG Terzi) J Penny.....	1	53.0
Oratorio	11 CHANTYMAN (DS Bosch) W Kennedy.....	10	52.0
Seventh Rock	12 DONNY (G Maroun) H vd Hoven.....	11	52.0
Tiger Ridge	13 ISPHAN (RR Magner) D Schwarz.....	4	52.0
Var	14 VALBONNE (RR Magner) R Munger.....	15	52.0
Mogok	15 PREMIER SHOW (C Binda) K Matsunyane.....	9	52.0
Great Britain	16 GREAT SHAKA (G Maroun) L J Ferraris.....	2	52.0

A Ferrari On Four

Saturday's Turffontein feature is named in honour of the four-legged Ferrari, Tommy Hotspur. At the age of 27, and enjoying a pampered retirement on Shearwood Farm in Johannesburg, his proud owner Ashleigh Hughes told the Sporting Post earlier this week that her favourite son was doing well.

"He is in great health and happy in retirement. He is still so handsome, even with all the silver streaks throughout his gold shimmer coat," she added.

Trained for the larger part of his career by Gary Alexander, and then by David Ferraris, he won his first 8 starts in a row, and 10 races in total, including the Gr1 Computaform Sprint. The flashy chestnut colt, by Harry Hotspur out of the Brer Rabbit mare, Tabitha Twitchet, was born on 1 November 1991. "Pure speed on speed," comments Ashleigh. He didn't have good front legs, and was rejected by the National Yearling and National 2yo Sale selection committee and relegated to the farm. The following year, Gary Alexander went to view yearlings at Mr Beck's farms and noticed the skinny 2yo in a paddock. He was immediately drawn to the colt, but Mr Beck tried to talk him out of the little chestnut, due to those poorly conformed legs. However, Gary was determined and eventually a deal was struck and Tommy headed up to Turffontein to race in the interests of Len Salzman, Greg Sadie and Brian Melnick.

It was one of those rare partnerships that simply worked. Despite requiring skilful management, Tommy had 12 starts for Gary, winning his first 8 races in a row. He followed up with 2 close seconds and then posted another 2 wins, including the 1997 Gr1 Computaform Stakes, which saw him break the track record, covering the Gosforth Park 1000 metres in 56,37 seconds.

Tommy transferred to David Ferraris for his next 4 starts, but never matched his earlier form and was retired in March 1998 with 10 wins and 4 places from his total of 16 lifetime starts.

Quality Diadem Closes The Summer

Anton Marcus to ride Chimichuri Run

The recent Gr1 Cape Flying Championship winner Kasimir is the officially highest rated runner in the R400 000 Gr2 Khaya Stables Diadem Stakes to be run at Kenilworth on Saturday 23 February.

The popular Prawns Festival usually attracts one of the bigger crowds of the Cape season and the Diadem Stakes is one of four features on the programme that will bring the curtain down on a memorable Summer.

The improved Kasimir has enjoyed an excellent season with victories in the Cape Flying Championship and the Merchants and the son of Captain Al will be a popular choice to end his summer in style before the SA Champions Season.

The Field:

1	2	Kasimir	60	117	R Fourie	J Snaith
2	13	Bold Respect	60	116	C Orffer	B Crawford
3	5	Sergeant Hardy	60	112	G Cheyne	J Snaith
4	10	Attenborough	60	110	S Khumalo	J Ramsden
5	11	Silicone Valley	59	114	L Mxothwa	G Puller
6	9	Search Party	58	112	S Veale	B Crawford
7	3	Trip To Heaven	58	111	L Hewitson	S Tarry
8	12	Speedpoint	58	109	A Domeyer	J Ramsden
9	14	Dutch Philip	58	106	R Munger	C Bass-Robinson
10	8	Sand And Sea	58	105	K de Melo	D Drier
11	7	Tevez	58	100	R Khathi	C Bass-Robinson
12	1	Chimichuri Run	55	114	A Marcus	S Tarry
13	6	Elusive Trader	55	98	M Byleveld	G Ennon
14	4	Russet Air	55	90	R Simons	C Bass-Robinson

Pretty Foxy!

Brett Crawford's Run Fox Run made it two from two at Kenilworth on Saturday and looks promising.

The Mill Park Stud bred Run Fox Run, a daughter of the Woodside Park Stud-based Foxwedge was sold at the 2017 Inglis Australian Easter yearling sale for A\$420 000.

Raced by brothers Ross and Craig Kieswetter along with Ridgmont Highlands Stud, Run Fox Run is a half-sister to the Listed Heritage Stakes winner Guard Of Honour whose dam is a sister to the Listed winner Victory Chant and a half-sister to Reldas from the family of Gr1 Thousand Guineas winner Serious Speed and the Gr2 winner Majestic Music. As part of their 2019 Inglis Australian Easter yearling sale draft, Mill Park Stud will offer Lot 326, a Written Tycoon half-brother to Run Fox Run.

RIDGEMONT

HIGHLANDS

MORE HIGHLANDS BRED WINNERS

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HOME RULER

3yo f PATHFORK (USA) x HARRIET HOUSE (AUS)
by GRAND LODGE (USA)

Trainer: D R DRIER

Breeder: HIGHLANDS FARM STUD (PTY) LTD

Owners: MR N JONSSON



DAME KELLY

4yo f DYNASTY x KELLY'S OLYMPICS (USA) by KINGMAMBO (USA)

Trainer: O A FERRARIS

Breeder: HIGHLANDS FARMS STUD (PTY) LTD

Owners: MR O A FERRARIS

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NEWS

KR Property Committee Gets New Look

The Board of Kenilworth Racing (“KR”) has advised that it has appointed a new Property Sub-Committee (“PSC”) under the chairmanship of Robert Bloomberg.

Current KR Directors Greg Bortz and Jonathan Snaith, former KR Director Vidrik Thurling, Phumelela CEO John Stuart and Mrs Gaynor Rupert, who has graciously agreed to lend her expertise, form the balance of the committee.

The PSC is presently fully exploring all avenues pertaining to the KR properties and flowing therefrom investigating the best utilisation of KR’s assets and the creation of annuity income for the Company.

At this juncture, there has been no Board approval in respect of pursuing any developments on any of their properties.

KR is currently in discussions with their legal advisors and will be consulting with planners and environmentalists in due course prior to any formal decisions being made by the Board .

Announcements will follow in due course when they are able to definitively report thereon.

- Press release by Kenilworth Racing on 6 February

MR Appeals Panel Appointments

The National Horseracing Authority National Board have announced that they have appointed the Sporting Post’s Karel Miedema and former NHA Handicapper Ken Nicol as members of their Merit Ratings Appeal panel with effect from 8 February 2019.



This was announced in Friday’s NHA calendar, Volume 118 Issue 28.

Both men bring plenty of experience to the table.

Ken Nicol joined the Sporting

Post as a handicapper in 2005. In 2010 he was offered a handicapping post at the NHA, a position he held until March 2017.

Editor of South Africa’s premier racing and breeding publication Sporting Post for the past 25 years, Karel Miedema is a widely respected handicapping and pedigree expert.

Operator Opens Doors To Punters

An informal but very constructive and lively meeting hosted by new Kenilworth Racing Co-Chairman Robert Bloomberg and WPRRA Chairman Jono Snaith with a small group of longstanding Cape punters was held in the Kenilworth Racing Private Suite after Saturday’s racemeeting.

Kenilworth Racing’s Chief Operating Officer Faeza Heuwel also attended, as did a representative of the Sporting Post.

The meeting arose out of a commitment issued in December from both the KR Board and the WPRRA board to open lines of communication with the media and the public.

A letter written by Michael Jacobs and published in the Argus and the Sporting Post after the Sun Met last month caught the attention of Messrs Bloomberg and Snaith and also initiated a groundswell of support amongst our readers.

‘The Met has lost quite a lot of its fun and energy since it changed to the SunMet, but truth be told it has been on a downward spiral for a good few years. The event has become over commercialised and exclusive, and the huge crowds of yesteryear are staying away,’ wrote Mr Jacobs, a man who started out life as a barman at Kenilworth and Milnerton, and who today works for one of South Africa’s largest retailers. He attends every racemeeting, work permitting.

He said that the owner and punter are the two most important stakeholders in racing. “Without owners there is no horse-racing, without punters there is no betting and punting which funds the industry. Trainers, jockeys, grooms, racing operator staff (and management) are merely workers in the industry, dependant on us and owners to provide their livelihoods!”

As regards the major days, Jacobs said that in his opinion the SunMet and Queen’s Plate have become elitist, exclusionary and exclusive and said it appears as if there is an attempt to sideline the ordinary punter/racegoer. This thought has been echoed by many.

Seasoned racegoer and former politician Danny de La Cruz also attended Saturday’s meeting with his wife. He was very vocal about the cost of the dining facilities on Queen’s Plate day and the fact that he had to go through numerous checks at a venue he has been attending for the past sixty years.

“Nobody from Kenilworth Racing was there to welcome me. The food was sub standard. The way I feel now, I won’t come again. And I should point out that the Betting World Tote on the racetrack no longer has a liquor licence. We punters love to have a drink you know. But now they are offering me toffee apples and bananas,” he laughed.

Neil van Vuuren was another lifetime punter who attended racing as often as he could. He pointed out the sub standard facilities from dirty chairs to poor service in the bar and at the tote counters, outdated tote machines and litter lying around from previous meetings.

He, however, liked the crowd boosting idea mooted by Jono Snaith that tickets could, for example, be donated to the Universities, which could be sold at a discount to students and the proceeds used for fundraising by the various institutions.

[Read more here](#)

INTERNATIONAL

Big In Japan

Nanako Fujita is set to make history in Sunday's February Stakes in Tokyo, where she will become the first female Japan Racing Association jockey to compete in a Group 1 race.

The 21-year-old is the only female rider in the JRA ranks, and is already the most successful female jockey in JRA history, eclipsing the previous record of 34 held by Yukiko Masuzawa.

Last weekend Fujita rode her 50th JRA winner. In total she has 70 victories, with 20 coming on the rival National Association of Racing circuit.

She got acquainted with her February Stakes ride, Copano Kicking, last Friday when partnering the four-year-old for the first time at trainer Akira Murayama's yard and on the track at Ritto training centre.

Fujita said: "He was very easy to ride. When I received this offer, I didn't believe it, but was delighted. I want to say thank you to the owner and the trainer."

Owner Sachiaki Kobayashi, who won the February Stakes with Copano Rickey in 2014, said he would ask Fujita to ride Copano Kicking following his latest victory in the Grade 3 Negishi Stakes last month. That success was achieved with the assistance of Irishman Oisin Murphy in the saddle.

Kobayashi said: "I think she is a good jockey. I wanted to ask her to ride a strong horse in a Grade 1. I believe that racing should make dreams for not only the fans but also the connections." - www.racingpost.com



Nanako Fujita

What A Payne!

At Wednesday's Highway meeting at Warwick Farm, former SA-based Sydney trainer David Payne inflicted a A\$156 running double on punters in the opening two events and, job done, packed up and went home.

While the winner of the first race was A\$26 rank outsider Costello in a field of five, the second of Payne's twin-pronged attack was a horse who should never have been allowed to start at A\$6.00.

Beaten only 2.6-lengths behind short-priced Golden Slipper aspirant McLaren recently in the Gr3 Canonbury Stakes, Deep Chill had finished just out of the placings on debut behind Castelvechio who followed up with victory in the \$2 million Inglis 2YO Millennium.

Asked after Deep Chill's maiden win if he might head to the Slipper, Payne suggested the 1200m would be too sharp, and that the beautifully-bred son of Wandjina and Gr1 winner Eskimo Queen is far more of an Inglis Sires and Champagne style of horse.

Trainer of 107 Gr1 Winners, David Payne moved to Australia from South Africa in 2002, without any horses, wanting to make a new start. Since then he has become one of the most respected trainers in the tough Sydney market and has in the past held a position in the top 5 metropolitan trainers.

Grand National - Weights Published

Multiple Gr1 winner Bristol De Mai heads the weights on 11st 10lb, with a lowered rating of 168, for the 2019 Randox Health Grand National.

With a prize fund of £1 million, the world's greatest chase is the most valuable Jump race globally and takes place over four miles, two furlongs and 74 yards and 30 fences at Aintree at 5.15pm on Saturday, April 6, day three of the Randox Health Grand National Festival. This year sees the 172nd running of the great Aintree chase.

Bristol De Mai, one of nine entries for dual Randox Health Grand National-winning trainer Nigel Twiston-Davies, gained his second G1 Betfair Chase at Haydock Park in November, when he defeated Cheltenham Gold Cup hero Native River by four lengths.

Twiston-Davies, whose Aintree successes came courtesy of Earth Summit (1998) and Bindaree (2002), also has impressive Sky Bet Chase victor Go Conquer (10st 13lb) and 2017 Becher Handicap Chase winner Blaklion (10st 12lb) among his nine entries.

The 2018 Randox Health Grand National hero Tiger Roll (Gordon Elliott IRE) has been given 11st 1lb, as he bids to become the first dual winner of the race since the legendary Red Rum.

[Read more here](#)

Cheltenham Betting Opens

South Africa's leading bookmakers Hollywood have opened their ante-post market on next month's show-piece Cheltenham Festival.

The four-day Cheltenham Festival, the fourth most attended sporting event in the United Kingdom which attracts over 320 000 visitors, is due to start on March 12.

"We are in contact with the British Horseracing Authority (BHA), who are handling the logistics of the equine flu on behalf of British Racing and providing regular updates," a spokesman for the Cheltenham racecourse told abc.net.au.

"The festival isn't for five weeks and we hope that the BHA's early actions to resume racing on Wednesday will have resolved this matter quickly."

The British racing industry is worth 3.45 billion pounds sterling (\$6.28 billion) a year and horse racing is the second most attended sport in the country with about 5.7 million people going to meetings each year.

Cheltenham is also worth about 100 million pounds to the local Gloucestershire economy.

Visit www.hollywoodbets.net for more

LOCAL

NHA Improve Web Offering

A local horseracing results webpage has now been added and is live on the NHA website.

The results page is interactive and form analysis can be done at a click of the mouse.

The Handicappers' Line Horse is also highlighted on this page, as well as consequential merit rating adjustments.

Follow these steps:

Open www.nhra.co.za website.

Click on Racing Information tab.

Click on Racing Results.

Enter date of race meeting required.

For any further comments/suggestions, email info@nhra.co.za.

INTERNATIONAL

Blue Point For Sprint This Evening

This evening's seventh meeting of the 2019 Dubai World Cup Carnival is a quality one, including a triple header of Thoroughbred Group stakes races.



caption?

This is headed by the Gr2 Meydan Sprint, the Gr2 Balanchine and the Gr3 Firebreak Stakes.

All eyes will be on Godolphin's heavily favoured Blue Point in the Gr2 Meydan Sprint, one of the few Thoroughbred

features the owners are yet to win, as he bids to go one better than when chasing home the late Ertijaal in the 1000m turf dash 12 months ago.

In fact, trainer Charlie Appleby has finished second in the last five Meydan Sprint renewals with Jungle Cat (2017, 2016) and Ahtoug (2015, 2014) rounding out the quintet of close calls.

A 5-year-old gelded son of Shamardal, Blue Point went to post as the market favourite in the subsequent 1200m turf Al Quoz Sprint sponsored by Azizi Developments (Gr1) on Dubai World Cup day, but that was as far as he got, as a trickle of nostril blood necessitated withdrawal at the gate on veterinary advice. Then well beaten in Hong Kong after an eventful shipping, he returned to Europe and his very best form to win the 1000m Group 1 King's Stand Stakes at Royal Ascot before disappointing in the 1200m July Cup. His most recent outing was a third in the Nunthorpe Stakes (Gr1) at York in August.

"The plan has always been to go to the Al Quoz Sprint via just this race," Appleby said. "He ran very well in this last year and seems in similar form at home as he was 12 months ago, so hopefully he will run well, but will certainly improve for the run."

The aforementioned dual Meydan Sprint winner Ertijaal carried the colours of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, as did 2016 winner Fityaan, with the owner seeking a fourth consecutive victory in the race. Among the select field of seven he has two representatives, both trained internationally. Following a similar path to Ertijaal, who won the 1000m Turf handicap on opening night three times, Faatinah will bid to post his third Carnival win at the hands of the Australian Hayes' stable.

The owner's second chance, Mujaafy, is in the capable hands of Mike de Kock, seeking a third win in this race, having landed it with Shea Shea in both 2013 and 2014.

De Kock also saddles Janoobi (3rd race) and Astronomer (7th race).

[Get your racecard here](#)

Extended Career In Korea

Fransie Herholdt's stint in South Korea has worked out very well, with the result that the Korean Racing Association have extended his contract for another six months up until August.

Taking the opportunity of the Chinese New Year break to pop over to Joburg for a week to see his family, he opened up on his impressions of racing in the Asian republic.

"It's going very well, and I've ridden seven winners so far – including two for Bart Rice, who played a big role in smoothing the way for me to come here.

"It's a very different set up. Like for riding work you are given a schedule by the translator, and generally whatever you work you will be riding on the Saturday. So you don't ride as much work as here, but it's a lot fairer."

Luckily Fransie is based in the southern city of Busan, as the winter weather came as a bit of a shock.

"It gets unbelievably cold here. Busan is about 10 degrees warmer than Seoul fortunately, as when I was riding there recently it was -14C.

"They use a dirt track, but have to add lots of coarse salt to prevent it freezing over in the extreme temperatures.

"We have fantastic courses here, and I'm looking forward to racing in summer, where it's much more a jump and go style, which suits me."

- Tabnews

Short Heads

Oh Dear... Oh Susanna, who made history when becoming the first 3yo filly to win the Met in over 100 years last year, failed to live up to the hype of a double bid last month and could only finish seventh and 3,80 lengths behind Rainbow Bridge in the big Gr1. Trainer Justin Snaith has subsequently reported that the reigning SA Horse Of The Year returned cut into on the right hind and was lame 3/5. It is not known whether she will run in the SA Champions Season in KZN.



Bad News

Another week, another potential PR nightmare for Australian horseracing, it seems. Racing Victoria stewards are expected to interview multiple Gr1 winning jockey Craig Newitt in relation to a betting investigation. A Racing Victoria spokesperson confirmed that they were busy with a wide-ranging investigation but are unable to confirm who is involved at this stage. Newitt has ridden 33 Gr1 winners on Australian soil, most successfully with Miss Andretti (5x Gr1) and Lankan Rupee (4x Gr1).



Sun Sets

The sun sets on the Cape Summer Season at Kenilworth next Saturday 23 February when the R400 000 Khaya Stables Gr2 Diadem Stakes takes pride of place in a new slot on the programme. Longstanding Gr1 winning international owners, Khaya Stables are once again the sponsor of the race which will be run over the Kenilworth 1200m straight track. A Seafood Village and Summer Market will be hosted on course. Now to monitor the loadshedding schedule!



The Vodacom Durban July will be run at Greyville on 6 July. The fashion theme will be announced on Friday. The teaser is shown here.

Take a flyer at the theme name by emailing kaylenej@goldcircle.co.za

Bridge Of Size

Met winner Rainbow Bridge is set to become the first horse to win the Cape flagship and the Vodacom Durban July in the same season since Pocket Power 11 years ago. He is reportedly going to commence his campaign with a run in the Drill Hall Stakes and then the Gold Challenge. Rainbow Bridge is currently a 5-1 favourite in the Hollywood Vodacom Durban July ante-post market. Visit hollywoodbets.net to see more.

FATHER & SON

Ridgemont Highlands' father and son sires Dynasty and Jackson produced a pair of winners on Saturday and Sunday respectively, with Dynasty progeny winning the last two races at Turffontein on Saturday, and Jackson tasting success in two different countries the following day. The Highlands bred triple Gr1 winner enjoyed success in both South Africa and Zimbabwe on Sunday, with his 3yo son Jack Of Hearts catching the eye at Scottsville. Jackson enjoyed another 100% winners to runners strike rate at Borrowdale, when his gelded son Action Jackson landed a novice stakes over 1600m in emphatic style. He was bred by Ian Longmore, who also raced Jackson to six wins- including victories in the Gr1 Investec Cape Derby, Gr1 Daily News 2000 and Gr1 Champions Cup. Jackson has six yearlings on offer at the Cape Yearling Sale next month.

Liz Looks Lovely



Candice Bass-Robinson's Captain AI filly Cousin Liz looks something

special after her eye-catching debut win at Kenilworth on Saturday. The Riverton Stud-bred daughter of Captain AI cost owner Mario Ferreira R2,9 million at the National Yearling Sale and is a half-sister to the fair stayer Gimme One Night who has won up to 3200m. She looks a favourite for the Cape Fillies Nursery on this showing!

Racing Drought

With Flamingo Park and the Vaal abandoned due to waterlogged tracks on Monday and Tuesday this week, our local racing fathers must be tearing their hair out – given the business opportunity created by the Equine flu lockdown in the UK from Friday to Tuesday. A perfect chance to sell our local bread and butter menu to racing starved punters!

SICK FOR THE GAME

To counter the Equine flu doom and gloom, Britain's garden course Ripon staged a race with a difference on Tuesday. The Ripon Winter Dash, an eight-runner contest, took place live on Twitter and Facebook, with the plastic competitors flying home over a piece of A2 paper. Each runner had their number written on six different cards. The cards were shuffled, and the first number drawn out six times was the winner.

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SOURCE OF CHAMPIONS

PERSONALITY

Let's Give The Jockeys A Break!

Leonie Ermacora

The recent public criticism of race riding has evoked an emotional response from the wife of a hardworking middle of the road jockey who died tragically in an accident in 2007. She says that she wishes that horseracing would lift its fragile golden veil of glitz and glamour and play more human open cards in the real world. Life has gone on for Leonie Ermacora since her world was turned upside down two days after her 46th birthday on 17 August 2007.

That was the horrific day her then 43 year old jockey husband Peter Dillon was tragically killed when his motorbike mysteriously wobbled and fell in front of a vehicle driven by a 79 year old lady.

"He was five minutes from home. My Dad walked into the shop where I worked and I just knew it was bad. I said, 'please dad tell me he's alive!' He shook his head and my world was broken in pieces..."

As a mark of just how highly her husband was regarded in the industry, Leonie recalls that over 500 people attended the Memorial Service.

Peter Dillon, who joined the SA Jockey Academy in 1979, would often proudly recount how he had pipped Muis Roberts in a driving finish when he steered his first winner home. He was a leading apprentice but never quite got the support when he came out of his time.

He tried his luck in Mauritius and had ridden in Singapore the year before he died. He also rode in Mauritius and his daughter Catherine is a Mauritian citizen as Leonie was eight months pregnant when they left Durban for Port Louis.

He rode 17 winners from 64 rides in the Middle East, among them two Listed races in Dubai, including the Emirates Sky Cargo Trophy on Baldaquin. His 50% win strike rate in Kuwait, 11 wins out of 22 rides was an outstanding achievement.

A regular Sporting Post reader and poster, Leonie has remarried and lives in Ballito on the KZN North Coast with her husband Edi Ermacora. She stays in close touch with the sport through friends and social media and has strong opinions as to where horseracing fails itself in terms of public image.

"We need to stop fooling everybody. This is a wicked and a tough, tough game- and while some jockeys are driving snazzy cars and living in posh estates, and generally styling, a large proportion of them are eking out an existence. There is a fine line between great, good and plain average

– and that normally comes about through a lucky break or two along the way. I know they say you make your own luck in life- but have a heart. And let's stop jumping on the jockeys every time a favourite gets beaten and we are looking to roast somebody!"

The recent high-profile spotlights on Do It Again and Hawwaam had Leonie suggesting that the trainers become the starting point of explanations to the public rather than the jockey in isolation.

"I know it's a cliché, but how many professions have an ambulance following the men at work? Sportsmen – cricketers, footballers, Springboks – all have off days and make poor judgements. Nowhere else is it highlighted and placed on the individual's head like a jockey gets it- and random people seem to say what the hell they like on social media," she says, adding that what racing needs is the explanation straight from the trainers mouth to the public of why a favourite got beaten.

"Good or bad! Just say it how it is! But racing has always had a problem of public transparency somehow. There is often the story – and then the truth beyond that."

Her personal feeling is that the game has lost its zest and appeal and that there are too many people who think that they are bigger and better than the sport.

"We all came in to the world the same way and we will mostly all go out the same way.

"So let's stop admiring and idolising the money and the power brokers. Events of the past two years in this industry should prove that money doesn't make one man any bloody better than the next!"

She suggests that while it is nothing new, there are 'too many fingers in too many pies'.

"Too many back-seat drivers too. Racing needs transparency – and it should commence with the small things that taint the image to outsiders – like the eradication of the fact that so many couch potato punters slate jockeys. The industry can do its bit and help and educate and inform. Accusing the jockeys of riding for the bookies – or riding a shocker – is conspiracy theorist uninformed hogwash!"

Leonie changes tack as she points out bluntly – from experience- that being married to a jockey is either 'very easy or very difficult.'

"If you are successful, life is always easier financially. Peter struggled his whole life to be the best he could. He rode work every single day, except Sundays. He was



The late Peter Dillon

LEONIE ERMACORA

always running from ring to ring – and never ever without a smile. He rode many amazing horses and was one of the hardest working human beings.”

She asked us never to label her late husband ‘underrated’.

“I really dislike it when people say x, y or z is one of the most underrated jockeys. To any jockey that probably means he is worth his weight in gold. He is a great jock – but he just won't get rides. How is it that those same underrated jockeys will ride five winners in Zimbabwe and yet never get rides here? Then you have those jocks that just make it. Many times on the back of a huge win, a great horse and from there you they are well away. I'm not discounting basic natural talent. Some guys just have the knack. But personality and a lot of luck counts too. I'm just very proud of Peter's achievements. He was a real soldier.”

Leonie recalls how unpopular she was when she stood up for her late husband with her ‘big mouth’.

“I fought for him for 20 years. We were a team. I loved and I would have died for him.

He was my soulmate- my best friend and I adored him. Many felt I fought his battles. Yes, I did! And would do it all again. He was too soft. Too kind. Always smiling- even if things went wrong. I watched him suffer. He would often come home deflated and cry. The public doesn't see that side of life in the saddle. That's why when I read ‘experts’ talking rubbish on social media, I get so mad.”

Peter rode his last winner on 1 August. He died on 17 August.

“That just shows how tough things can be. We battled and often sold crockery to Cash Converters to feed our kids when things were bad and we had no food. But his love and devotion to his family and his job was incredible. I forgave many people and found peace after his death.”

Leonie lived in Johannesburg and at age 12 moved to Hillcrest. She was hooked on racing at age 8 when listening to a commentary on Radio Port Natal. At the age of 16 she put R10 on Lightning Shot to win the July and duly pocketed R240. She became a young Mom to her daughter Gaylene and was working for a company in Pinetown at age 21 when she and the Foreman won a R9000 jackpot.

“We banked a horse called Red Bikini. It was some time before I met Peter and clicked that ironically he rode that winner. I bought my first car with that cash!”

Peter was 21 when Leonie met him at a braai with friends.

“He was a soft, kind guy. He accepted Gaylene as his own – that at the tender age of 22 when we got married. I recall he was riding for Doug Campbell and David Payne. We had two wonderful children- Catherine and Kyle- he absolutely adored all three. Today my children are all happily married and successful in life. I have two gorgeous grandchildren and little Daniel looks just like his Oupa Peter.”

She and Edi have been married ten years now and her children call him Dad.

“I'm blessed but the road of life is often bumpy as it twists and turns. Edi has bone marrow cancer but he will be fine. I've never been afraid of a fight and he is blessed to have been granted the prognosis of a long life still.”

She closes by saying that she often thinks about writing a book one day.

“It's called Jockey's Wives. It will make Footballer's Wives look silly! Racing is a sexy fast-paced tough and wicked game that sells itself all wrong. I have been there and got the t-shirt and actually miss it a lot. There were highs and lows. But I'm just so fortunate and honoured to have been a part of Peter's life for 22 years. He lived by the credo – ‘I'm not afraid of tomorrow as I have seen yesterday and I love today’. And I use that today in my life still.”

Durban Demon's Dazzling Send-Off



Douglas Whyte waved farewell to the most successful race-riding career in Hong Kong history on Sunday evening at Sha Tin Racecourse, bowing out after saluting his fans long after the last race had weighed-in.

The 13-time champion jockey's final ride did not produce the fairy tale victory that he and the Sha Tin faithful desired, but the day delivered heart-warming displays of respect and appreciation for a sportsman whose achievements have lifted him high into the pantheon of racing's legends.

Whyte retires with a Hong Kong career total of 1,813 wins – 894 more than current champion Zac Purton – total stakes money of HK\$1,587,210,086.67, multiple Group 1 scores and, of course, his defining 13 consecutive premierships (2001-2013). His win strike rate over more than 22 years riding at Happy Valley and Sha Tin stands forever at 14.78%.

The man they call the Durban Demon was “overwhelmed” in particular at the send-off he received from his jockeys' room colleagues, for so long his unwavering rivals.

“Behind the gates (before the last race) it was quite emotional because the starter, Tony (Speechley), said a few words and all the jocks gave me a hip-hip-hooray, so it was a really nice send-off. You get a bit of a lump in your throat but I still had a race to ride,” Whyte said.

Whyte's blank on his final day was not for the want of trying but did owe something to a stroke of misfortune. Two seconds were his closest placings – Mr Croissant in race two and Seven Heavens in the eighth – but the near-miss came when he rallied the impeded Storm Signal close home in the seventh contest, only to take third.

“I would have won the race,” he said. “That's the only bitter-sweet ending to the day. I'd have loved to have had a winner but I'm happy with the way every horse ran and the way I rode every horse. [Read more here](#)

HERE & ELSEWHERE - SARAH WHITELAW

Halfway To Broodmare Of The Year Title?

While there is still plenty of racing left in the 2018-2019 South African racing season, thoughts will soon start focusing on potential Equus Awards contenders. One category which often proves tricky, and occasionally controversial, is the title of Broodmare Of The Year.

In 2019 there are already a few mares whose progeny have ensured that they enter the mix for this much sought after title. Halfway To Heaven does look a likely winner, given that her sons, Rainbow Bridge (Gr1 Sun Met) and Hawwaam (Gr2 Dingaans, Gr3 Tony Ruffel Stakes), have both won graded races this season, and both look likely to add further to her Broodmare Of The Year claims.

Among the South African based mares who have notably enhanced their credentials this season, a few stand out, such as:

Halfway To Heaven (Jet Master - Pas De Basque)

By deceased seven times champion sire, and increasingly successful broodmare sire, Jet Master, the Gr3 Prix Du Cap winning Halfway To Heaven earned nearly R500 000 on the track but has proved an even more effective producer than she was a racemare.

This mare has been represented by only two runners, namely the Met winning Rainbow Bridge and the hugely talented 3yo, Hawwaam, who looks a Gr1 winner in the making. Between the two, Rainbow Bridge (Ideal World) and Hawwaam (Silvano) have already earned over R4.3 million and there should be more to come. Another tribute to Halfway To Heaven is that her two star sons are sired not only by different stallions, but by sires who hail from different sire lines altogether.

Alignment (Alzao - Scots Lass)

Alignment, who never won a race but did run a close second in the Gr3 Prestige Stakes as a two-year-old in so doing producing a level of form higher than many mares currently at stud in this country, joined an elite list of mares to have produced more than one Gr1 winner, when her 3yo daughter, Front And Centre (Dynasty), won the Gr1 Cape Fillies Guineas this season. The classy Front And Centre joins young Ridgemont Highlands sire, Potala Palace (Singspiel), as a Gr1 winner produced by Alignment, with Potala Palace having captured the Gr1 Premier's Champion Stakes as a two-year-old. Alignment, whose son, Streak Of Silver (Silvano), won the (Non Black Type) November Stakes this season, has a total of nine winners to her credit thus far and is also granddam of international graded stakes winners, Excellent Result (Shamardal) and Midnight Crossing (Dark Angel). A number of the mare's daughters have since joined Alignment at stud, and her influence looks set to continue further.

Aquatint (Peintre Celebre - Sakieh)

A daughter of one of the greatest French champions of recent times, the regally bred Aquatint, whose granddam is G1 Prix de l'Abbaye winner Sigy, won three times on the track, but has proved far more successful since retiring to stud. Aquatint, whose Trippi son, Afrikaburn, won the Ge1 Durban Golden Horseshoe



in 2014, was represented by her second Ge1 winner this season when her son, Kasimir, captured the Ge1 Betting World Cape Flying Championship on Sun Met day. To date, Aquatint has four winners from five runners with her other foals including Ge2 Glorious Goodwood Peninsula Handicap second, The Slade (Philanthropist). Her Arc winning sire, Peintre Celebre, has proved to be a superb broodmare sire, with his daughters having thrown over 50 stakes winners, including such Gr1 winners as Red Cadeaux (Hong Kong Vase), Talent (Epsom Oaks), Gathering (Railway Stakes), Protectionist (Melbourne Cup), Nutan (Deutsches Derby), Vadamos (Prix du Moulin) and Pakistan Star (QE II Cup).

Intriguingly, Aquatint is inbred to top miler, leading sire and outstanding broodmare sire Habitat, who is widely regarded as one of the finest broodmare sires of recent years.

Former Eastern Cape star, Stormy Appeal (Kilconnel), has proved consistently successful since she retired to stud. The multiple stakes winner was represented by her fourth stakes winner, and first graded stakes winner, when her 3yo daughter, Storm Destiny (by Dynasty), won the Gr3 Three Troikas Stakes this season. Interestingly, all four of Stormy Appeal's stakes winners were either sired by Fort Wood or by the latter's outstanding sire son, Dynasty.

Former Gr3 Pretty Polly Stakes winner, Jalberry, a regally bred own sister to last season's Broodmare Of The Year, Strawberry Lane (Jallad-Taineberry)- whose daughter Redberry Lane won again at Turffontein on Saturday, is, unlike her full-sister, yet to produce a Gr1 winner, but she has still proved a very effective broodmare in her own right. She produced her second graded stakes winner when daughter, Love To Boogie (Trippi), won this season's Gr3 Diana Stakes, and Jalberry is also granddam of this season's Gr1 WSB Cape Fillies Guineas runner up, Silvano's Pride (Silvano). Jalberry's previous winners include Gr2 Golden Horseshoe winner, Purple Diamond (Var) and the smart Singapore performer, Mr Fantastic.

While the likes of Stormy Appeal and Jalberry are yet to produce a Gr1 winner, and as such won't qualify (at the time of writing) for the Broodmare Of The Year title, all of the mares mentioned above continue to make their mark on the South African turf.

The full cards for Weekend Racing with ratings & tips can be purchased [here](#)

DIGEST DIARY

Features To Come

Sat 16 Feb	Gr3 Tommy Hotspur Hcp 1000m Turffontein (S)
Fri 22 Feb	(L) Lady's Pendant (F&M) 1200m Fairview (T)
Sat 23 Feb	Gr2 Khaya Stables Diadem Stakes 1200m Kenilworth (S)
	Vasco Prix Du Cap (F&M) 1400m Kenilworth (S)
	(L) Kenilworth Cup 3200m Kenilworth (S)
	(L) Jet Master Stakes 1600m Kenilworth (S)
Fri 1 March	(L) Ibhayi Stakes (3yo's) 1400m Fairview (T)
Sat 2 March	Gr1 SA Classic (3yo's) 1800m Turffontein (S)
	Gr1 Wilgerbosdrift SA Fillies Classic (3yo's) 1800m Turffontein (S)
	Gr2 Hawaii Stakes 1400m Turffontein (S)
	Gr3 Acacia Handicap (F&M) 1600m Turffontein (S)
	(L) Aquanaut Handicap 2400m Turffontein (S)
Fri 8 March	(L) Breeders Guineas (3yoF) 1600m Fairview (T)
Sat 9 March	(L) Bauhinia Hcp (F&M) 1000m Turffontein (S)
	(L) Storm Bird S. (2yo's) 1000m Turffontein (S)
	(L) Ruffian Stakes (2yoF) 1200m Turffontein (S)
	(L) Derby Trail (3yo's) 2000m Turffontein (S)
	(L) Oaks Trial (3yoF) 2000m Turffontein (S)

New Faces On TBA Council

The Council of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of SA, announced last week that Vaughan Koster and Craig Kieswetter have been co-opted as additional members of Council.

Both men have accepted the positions on the Council and join Lee Scribante (Chair), Eugene Freeman (Vice-Chair), Marc Greene, Warwick Render and Rennie Price in administering the affairs of the Association.

Vaughan is well known through the breeding successes of his family's Cheveley Stud and has been integral in the groom's transformation and training programme of the Cape Breeders' Club.

Craig, has been very involved in the rebranding of Highlands Stud as Ridgemont-Highlands, bringing a fresh edge to the well-known and very successful Highlands Farm.

The Chairman said: "The Council would like to thank Craig and Vaughan for coming on board to serve the industry, and we look forward to their involvement in, and contribution to, the running of the Association on behalf of all breeders.

Press Release by TBA Council on 8 February

Phumelela Shareprice

date	close	high	low	volume
13Feb	994	994	970	5,163
12Feb	968	1010	855	269,432
11Feb	1015	1035	1015	8,169
08Feb	1015	1015	995	8,100
07Feb	995	995	995	4,000
06Feb	1000	1000	1000	100
05Feb	1090	1149	1006	21,950
04Feb	1110	1174	1110	74,650
01Feb	1198	1325	1125	135,950

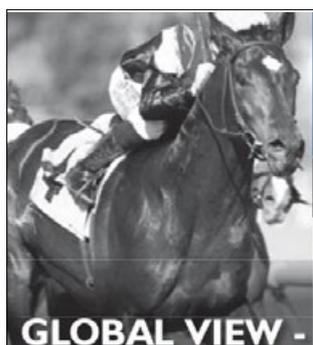
SCORE CARD

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 SCORERS for 2018/2019
(to 10 February 2019)

horse	age	sex	points	races
Rainbow Bridge	4	c	168	4
Do It Again	4	c	166	3
Kasimir	4	c	150	2
Clouds Unfold	3	f	142	4
Soqrat	3	c	132	3
Tilbury Fort	5	c	124	2
Head Honcho	5	c	90	2
Front And Centre	3	f	88	2
Coral Fever	6	c	88	2
Legal Eagle	7	c	87	3
Cascapedia	5	f	72	2
Oh Susanna	4	f	70	1
Atyaab	3	c	70	1
Dawn Assault	5	c	69	2
Undercover Agent	4	c	62	3
Captain Aldo	8	c	62	2
Nafaayes	3	f	60	2
Doublemint	4	c	50	1
Gimme One Night	5	c	50	2
Magnificent Seven	4	c	50	1
Lady In Black	4	f	50	2
One World	3	c	48	2
Arctica	6	c	48	2
Chimichuri Run	3	c	35	2
Charles	3	c	33	1
Bold Respect	4	c	32	1
National Park	3	c	30	1
Princess Rebel	4	f	30	1
Hawwaam	3	c	30	1
Search Party	6	c	28	1
Trip To Heaven	7	c	26	1
Pacific Trader	4	c	26	1
Takingthepeace	4	f	25	1
Sylvan On Fire	5	f	25	1
Rebel's Champ	4	c	25	1
Alyaasaat	3	c	24	1
Kampala Campari	5	c	23	1



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BREEDING

Bloodstock Selection

Are We Doing This All Wrong?

One of my favourite Michael McIntyre skits is the one about choosing wine in a restaurant, writes Oscar Foulkes.

He accurately points out that the vast majority of wine drinkers couldn't call themselves experts, of course while completely selling the audience on the hilarity of the wine list interaction. His facial expressions conveying mock knowledge are brilliant.

Most of the time, wine selection is a low stakes game. It doesn't matter when we don't know what we don't know, to borrow from Donald Rumsfeld.

Racehorses, on the other hand, even if they are cheap purchases, cost a lot to feed. The same applies to breeding them. The only significant difference is the cost of bloodstock.

Professionals in this industry (and I'm including myself) know that they are going to be wrong more often than they are going to be right. When just 3% of foals end up as stakes-winners it's a statistical inevitability.

So we develop strategies that we believe will give us an edge. Indeed, many people do outperform the averages. Pushing the stakes-winner strike rate to 10% is three times better than the average, but it still means that we are wrong nine times out of ten.

Given this fact, I wonder how Michael McIntyre would send up Thoroughbred professionals as we go about our bloodstock or yearling selection. We take notes, make serious faces, and have hushed conversations while pointing at a yearling colt's knees. We slip a hand between bridle and jaw to assess breathing capacity, or run our hands down the joints of his front legs as if we have magical x-ray sensors on our palms. While on the subject, have you ever seen someone closely inspect the hind legs of an unfamiliar horse? [Read more here](#)

Flower's First

Wilgerbosdrift stallion Flower Alley marks his maiden runner from his first SA crop when the Kumaran Naidoo trained Juniper Lane runs in the opener at Scottsville on Sunday.

The Highlands bred gelding is out of the one-time winning Tapit mare Gin Rummy, who produced the Snaith-trained one-time winner from five starts to date, Ladder Man (Twice Over).

A R180 000 KZN Yearling Sale graduate, Juniper Lane is by the 2005 Gr1 Travers Stakes winner Flower Alley who earned over \$2 million in stakes on the track. His first SA crop yearlings sold for up to R1,5 million.

A half-brother to a pair of Gr1 winners, and from the same family as the great sire Lyphard, Flower Alley has 40 stakes horses to his name thus far, headed by champions I'll Have Another, Lukes Alley and My Wandy's Gal, as well as the Gr1 winners Bullards Alley and Lilacs And Lace.

He has the distinction of being the only sire of a Kentucky Derby winner to stand in South Africa.

De Kock Star To Stud

Grade 1 winner Mubtaahij has been retired from racing and will likely head to South America for stud duty, according to bloodstock agent Donato Lanni.



Mubtaahij

The 2017 Awesome Again Stakes winner, who was trained by Mike de Kock, Kieran McLaughlin, and Bob Baffert during his career, is currently stabled at Hill 'n' Dale Farms in Kentucky and doesn't have a stallion deal finalized yet, but he will most

likely stand his first season in Argentina, Lanni said, because "interest in America was bleak."

"He's going to stand in Argentina, but we don't know where yet," Lanni said of the 7-year old son of Dubawi. "We'd love to stand him here, but we'll start there and see what happens. I believe in the horse, but, unfortunately, I don't have 100 mares to breed to him. He's bred for turf, but he's made a classic dirt horse."

Along with his Awesome Again score for Baffert, Mubtaahij won or placed in 10 other grade/group events and earned more than \$5.7 million for owner Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa al Maktoum.

In 2018, his final racing season, Mubtaahij placed in all four of his races—thirds in the Dubai World Cup Sponsored By Emirates Airline (G1) and San Pasqual Stakes (G2) and seconds in the Santa Anita Handicap Presented by San Manuel Indian Bingo and Casino (G1) and Lone Star Park Handicap (G3).

He raced in the Dubai World Cup three times. Along with his effort in 2018, he finished second in 2016 and fourth in 2017.

Mubtaahij began his racing career with de Kock in Newmarket and then Dubai, where he won the 2015 UAE Derby Sponsored By Saeed & Mohammed Al Naboodah Group (G2) to punch his ticket to the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (G1), where he finished eighth.

He also competed in the Belmont Stakes presented by DraftKings (G1) that year, where he challenged Triple Crown winner American Pharoah in the final turn at Belmont Park but faded to fourth.

Bred in Ireland by Dunmore Stud out of the Pennekamp mare Pennegale, Mubtaahij sold to Form Bloodstock for \$599,760 when he was consigned by Haras d'Hotellerie to the 2013 Arqana Deauville August Yearling Sale.

He retired with a record of 5-6-4 from 24 starts and earnings of \$5,780,332. After his Kentucky Derby effort, he only finished out of the top five once—in the 2017 Breeders' Cup Classic (G1)- over his final 16 starts.

LEADING BREEDERS by STAKES

SEASON 2018/2019 • 1 August - 10 February 2019

Stakes	Breeder	rnrns	AEPR	runs	wnrns	wns	wnr/ rnr%	SW wnrs	SW wns	SW/ wnr%	plcs	plc/ rns%	SP	top earner with stakes & % of total stakes
14,728,173	Klawervlei Stud	340	43,318	1357	103	122	30%	1	1	1%	360	27%	4	One World 2,909,375 20%
12,289,647	Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein	190	64,682	757	74	102	39%	3	5	4%	233	31%	5	Rainbow Bridge 3,270,000 27%
9,601,885	Summerhill Stud	237	40,514	1132	74	99	31%	3	3	4%	293	26%	4	Africa Rising 443,750 5%
7,624,710	Highlands	124	61,490	534	53	72	43%	3	3	6%	154	29%	3	Front And Centre 895,625 12%
7,515,774	Drakenstein Stud	105	71,579	408	37	48	35%	8	11	22%	136	33%	5	Clouds Unfold 1,225,000 16%
5,318,463	Riverton Stud	31	171,563	136	12	19	39%	1	2	8%	40	29%	1	Cirillo 3,850,000 72%
4,794,924	Favour Stud	74	64,796	341	27	39	36%	2	3	7%	112	33%	1	Twist Of Fate 1,552,500 32%
4,649,310	Varsfontein Stud	84	55,349	324	37	52	44%	3	3	8%	100	31%	4	Doosra 252,850 5%
4,441,061	Maine Chance	115	38,618	438	43	51	37%	2	2	5%	100	23%	4	Silver Maple 173,850 4%

LEADING SIRES by STAKES

SEASON 2018/2019 • 1 August - 10 February 2019

Stakes	Sire	rnrns	AEPR	runs	wnrns	wns	wnr/ rnr%	SW wnrs	SW wns	SW/ wnr%	plcs	plc/ rns%	SP	top earner with stakes & % of total stakes
11,328,820	*Captain Al	129	87,820	510	53	63	41%	5	6	9%	184	36%	9	One World 2,909,375 26%
8,114,886	Silvano	175	46,371	629	61	78	35%	5	6	8%	200	32%	8	Hawwaam 728,125 9%
7,821,624	Var	162	48,282	647	63	76	39%	4	4	6%	201	31%	4	Vardy 870,950 11%
7,665,560	Dynasty	121	63,352	497	45	62	37%	2	2	4%	145	29%	10	Front And Centre 895,625 12%
7,200,049	Gimmethgreenlight	132	54,546	536	47	65	36%	4	6	9%	171	32%	5	National Park 919,775 13%
7,010,525	Ideal World	89	78,770	401	33	46	37%	1	2	3%	110	27%	3	Rainbow Bridge 3,270,000 47%
5,956,438	Querari	109	54,646	428	39	55	36%	3	3	8%	120	28%	6	Head Honcho 813,750 14%
5,413,937	What A Winter	112	48,339	469	44	53	39%	1	3	2%	137	29%	2	Clouds Unfold 1,225,000 23%
5,412,837	Twice Over	99	54,675	411	30	35	30%	2	2	7%	120	29%	1	Do It Again 1,977,500 37%

LEADING SIRES of 3YO'S by STAKES

SEASON 2018/2019 • 1 August - 10 February 2019

Stakes	Sire	rnrns	AEPR	runs	wnrns	wns	wnr/ rnr%	SW wnrs	SW wns	SW/ wnr%	plcs	plc/ rns%	SP	top earner with stakes & % of total stakes
5,895,410	*Captain Al	54	109,174	204	24	30	44%	2	2	8%	79	39%	3	One World 2,909,375 49%
5,064,887	Pomodoro	38	133,287	133	12	15	32%	0	0	0%	36	27%	1	Cirillo 3,850,000 76%
3,825,350	Var	65	58,852	264	29	34	45%	1	1	3%	85	32%	2	Vardy 870,950 23%
3,825,049	Dynasty	46	83,153	174	21	29	46%	2	2	10%	46	26%	4	Front And Centre 895,625 23%
3,581,787	What A Winter	59	60,708	261	27	33	46%	1	3	4%	74	28%	1	Clouds Unfold 1,225,000 34%
3,565,912	Master Of My Fate	63	56,602	251	17	21	27%	1	2	6%	79	31%	1	Twist Of Fate 1,552,500 44%
3,558,750	Gimmethgreenlight	53	67,146	205	22	28	42%	2	3	9%	67	33%	2	National Park 919,775 26%
2,831,424	Elusive Fort	49	57,784	215	15	18	31%	0	0	0%	52	24%	2	Elusive Trader 1,230,000 43%
2,514,374	Silvano	51	49,301	145	16	21	31%	1	2	6%	39	27%	2	Hawwaam 728,125 29%

LEADING SIRES of 3YO'S by AEPRSEASON 2018/2019 • 1 August - 10 February 2019 *with 20 or more rnrns*

Stakes	Sire	rnrns	AEPR	runs	wnrns	wns	wnr/ rnr%	SW wnrs	SW wns	SW/ wnr%	plcs	plc/ rns%	SP	top earner with stakes & % of total stakes
5,064,887	Pomodoro	38	133,287	133	12	15	32%	0	0	0%	36	27%	1	Cirillo 3,850,000 76%
5,895,410	*Captain Al	54	109,174	204	24	30	44%	2	2	8%	79	39%	3	One World 2,909,375 49%
3,825,049	Dynasty	46	83,153	174	21	29	46%	2	2	10%	46	26%	4	Front And Centre 895,625 23%
2,094,448	Potala Palace	27	77,572	117	15	20	56%	0	0	0%	27	23%	1	Palace Chapel 709,449 34%
3,558,750	Gimmethgreenlight	53	67,146	205	22	28	42%	2	3	9%	67	33%	2	National Park 919,775 26%
2,382,484	Pathfork	36	66,180	158	16	19	44%	0	0	0%	59	37%	3	Skye Lane 616,000 26%
3,581,787	What A Winter	59	60,708	261	27	33	46%	1	3	4%	74	28%	1	Clouds Unfold 1,225,000 34%
2,350,700	Querari	39	60,274	179	18	27	46%	1	1	6%	56	31%	2	Pleasedtoomeetyou 267,250 11%
3,825,350	Var	65	58,852	264	29	34	45%	1	1	3%	85	32%	2	Vardy 870,950 23%

LEADING SIRES of 2YO'S by STAKES

SEASON 2018/2019 • 1 August - 10 February 2019

Stakes	Sire	rnrns	AEPR	runs	wnrns	wns	wnr/ rnr%	SW wnrs	SW wns	SW/ wnr%	plcs	plc/ rns%	SP	top earner with stakes & % of total stakes
328,150	What A Winter	10	32,815	21	3	3	30%	0	0	0%	12	57%	0	Enterthedebutante 92,125 28%
283,300	Gimmethgreenlight	8	35,413	11	3	3	38%	0	0	0%	6	55%	1	Emerald Band 89,875 32%
243,025	Pathfork	5	48,605	9	2	3	40%	1	1	50%	3	33%	0	Miss Honey 152,050 63%
209,375	Crusade	4	52,344	10	3	3	75%	0	0	0%	4	40%	0	Hey Delilah 91,875 44%
177,125	Vercingetorix	5	35,425	9	3	3	60%	0	0	0%	2	22%	0	Astrix 80,875 46%
144,600	Captain Of All	9	16,067	13	1	1	11%	0	0	0%	6	46%	0	What You Are 89,750 62%
135,875	Master Of My Fate	5	27,175	6	1	2	20%	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	Basadi Faith 131,250 97%
134,625	Var	8	16,828	10	1	1	13%	0	0	0%	5	50%	0	Cavivar 71,875 53%

LEADING SIRES by STAKES on Polytrack

SEASON 2018/2019 • 1 August - 10 February 2019

Stakes	Sire	rnrns	AEPR	runs	wnrns	wns	wnr/ rnr%	SW wnrs	SW wns	SW/ wnr%	plcs	plc/ rns%	SP	top earner with stakes & % of total stakes
1,357,450	Oratorio	43	31,569	115	14	18	33%	0	0	0%	40	35%	0	Chantyman 154,900 11%
1,310,800	Gimmethgreenlight	44	29,791	116	13	16	30%	0	0	0%	37	32%	0	O' Keeffe 163,800 12%
1,217,063	Querari	41	29,684	98	12	14	29%	0	0	0%	37	38%	0	Playlist 135,025 11%
1,061,675	Pathfork	37	28,694	84	9	14	24%	0	0	0%	24	29%	0	Gorgeous Guest 222,350 21%
962,975	Silvano	41	23,487	91	9	11	22%	0	0	0%	30	33%	0	Red Shift 149,425 16%
962,925	*Captain Al	30	32,098	87	12	12	40%	0	0	0%	32	37%	0	Captain Cobalt 81,450 8%
948,313	Ideal World	27	35,123	67	11	13	41%	0	0	0%	22	33%	0	Mangrove 117,575 12%
922,925	*Sail From Seattle	48	19,228	131	11	12	23%	0	0	0%	34	26%	0	Seattle Oak 95,350 10%

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



SA reigning champion breeders Klawervlei Stud will be offering a large draft at the 2019 Cape Yearling Sale, due to take place at the Mistico Equestrian Centre next month. Klawervlei will be offering 15 yearlings, and another 11 lots as agent, at the Cape Sale, with the draft including lots by top class stallions Elusive Fort, Gimmethgreenlight, Pomodoro, Twice Over and What A Winter.

They will also be offering yearlings by popular young stallions Captain Of All, Coup De Grace and Vercingetorix.

Gimmethgreenlight is represented by a filly (Lot 30) whose Gr3 placed dam is a daughter of Klawervlei's deceased champion sire Captain Al, while former Equus Champion Elusive Fort has a filly (Lot 66) whose stakes winning dam is from the immediate family of Equus Champion Capetown Noir.

European champion Twice Over made a blistering start with his first crop yielding Gr1 L'Ormarins Queen's Plate winner Do It Again and Gr1 winner Sand And Sea, and the four time Gr1 winner has two yearlings in this draft.

Watch this space for our full sale preview



LEADING TRAINERS by STAKES

SEASON 2018/2019 • 1 August - 10 February 2019

trainer	runs	wins	win %	fav	fav %	wfav %	2nd	2nd %	1st four	1st four%	stakes	stks/ runs
SG Tarry	655	83	13%	114	17%	35%	66	10%	282	43%	14,729,707	22,488
J Snaith	603	85	14%	127	21%	35%	69	11%	280	46%	12,409,813	20,580
MF de Kock	354	52	15%	84	24%	26%	52	15%	176	50%	8,984,983	25,381
BJ Crawford	448	74	17%	100	22%	32%	49	11%	227	51%	7,660,225	17,099
AC Greeff	595	90	15%	134	23%	30%	76	13%	286	48%	6,197,675	10,416
C Bass-Robinson	460	41	9%	42	9%	29%	46	10%	185	40%	5,980,850	13,002
Y Bremner	447	66	15%	70	16%	33%	67	15%	216	48%	5,616,163	12,564
PA Peter	351	50	14%	72	21%	29%	49	14%	162	46%	5,471,897	15,589
VH Marshall	271	28	10%	33	12%	30%	35	13%	128	47%	5,340,500	19,707
A Nel	293	48	16%	45	15%	31%	44	15%	162	55%	5,191,625	17,719
GD Smith	636	51	8%	45	7%	22%	49	8%	241	38%	3,973,825	6,248
GS Kotzen	438	38	9%	46	11%	24%	52	12%	162	37%	3,939,850	8,995
DR Drier	258	39	15%	53	21%	36%	27	10%	128	50%	3,929,875	15,232
J Ramsden	223	23	10%	15	7%	27%	18	8%	84	38%	3,745,737	16,797
SD Gray	301	24	8%	17	6%	18%	30	10%	125	42%	3,642,487	12,101
AE Sands	56	7	13%	3	5%	33%	5	9%	23	41%	3,611,650	64,494

LEADING JOCKEYS by WINS

SEASON 2018/2019 • 1 August - 10 February 2019

jockey	rides	wins	win %	fav	fav %	wfav %	2nd	2nd %	1st four	1st four%	stakes	stks/ rides
A Marcus	379	122	32%	239	63%	38%	64	17%	266	70%	19,972,937	52,699
M Yeni	955	113	12%	149	16%	28%	118	12%	459	48%	10,346,795	10,834
L Hewitson	601	93	15%	109	18%	28%	98	16%	316	53%	11,071,375	18,422
R Munger	824	91	11%	85	10%	29%	89	11%	352	43%	8,006,259	9,716
G Cheyne	485	83	17%	142	29%	31%	78	16%	273	56%	6,771,250	13,961
G Lerena	324	82	25%	145	45%	35%	46	14%	203	63%	8,985,831	27,734
R Fourie	346	80	23%	134	39%	34%	55	16%	225	65%	11,757,000	33,980
W Kennedy	645	65	10%	64	10%	30%	77	12%	292	45%	8,110,624	12,575
L J Ferraris	464	52	11%	48	10%	33%	41	9%	174	38%	4,961,325	10,693
K De Melo	469	49	10%	49	10%	22%	56	12%	221	47%	6,082,801	12,970
A Domeyer	275	46	17%	61	22%	33%	43	16%	164	60%	5,637,400	20,500
C Zackey	590	44	7%	38	6%	21%	62	11%	222	38%	5,831,024	9,883
D Schwarz	404	38	9%	21	5%	29%	36	9%	139	34%	3,756,336	9,298
B Fayd/herbe	208	36	17%	30	14%	33%	16	8%	101	49%	5,101,175	24,525
M Khan	350	36	10%	25	7%	24%	37	11%	140	40%	4,244,887	12,128
R Danielson	279	34	12%	51	18%	35%	39	14%	123	44%	3,505,162	12,563
S Khumalo	262	34	13%	39	15%	33%	30	11%	106	40%	4,760,818	18,171

LEADING TRAINERS/JOCKEYS by WINS %

SEASON 2018/2019 • 1 August - 10 February 2019

trainer/ jockey	runs	wins	win %	fav	fav %	wfav %	2nd	2nd %	stakes	stks/ runs
JAJ v Vuuren/A Marcus	30	17	57%	23	77%	65%	4	13%	1,214,412	40,480
GB Puller/A Marcus	21	10	48%	15	71%	47%	3	14%	705,400	33,590
MF de Kock/G Lerena	39	14	36%	20	51%	30%	5	13%	2,174,436	55,755
MG & AA Azzie/G Lerena	28	10	36%	13	46%	54%	1	4%	781,961	27,927
BJ Crawford/A Marcus	84	28	33%	43	51%	42%	17	20%	2,916,625	34,722
GV Woodruff/G Lerena	67	19	28%	40	60%	38%	16	24%	1,919,725	28,653
J Snaith/R Fourie	277	70	25%	114	41%	36%	47	17%	10,376,950	37,462
AC Greeff/G Cheyne	235	56	24%	119	51%	30%	49	21%	3,747,575	15,947
RR Sage/M Yeni	62	15	24%	14	23%	50%	3	5%	1,781,061	28,727
A Nel/G Wright	91	21	23%	20	22%	20%	17	19%	1,820,025	20,000
Gareth Van Zyl/W Kennedy	56	13	23%	9	16%	67%	7	13%	1,066,875	19,051
Y Bremner/L Hewitson	143	29	20%	34	24%	29%	34	24%	2,292,338	16,030
AG Laird/R Danielson	128	24	19%	38	30%	39%	16	13%	2,320,137	18,126
SG Tarry/L J Ferraris	125	22	18%	18	14%	50%	11	9%	1,835,237	14,682
DR Drier/S Veale	152	26	17%	36	24%	36%	16	11%	2,714,375	17,858

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The improving Jason Gates has his mind on the job

All Grown Up

In March last year he rode the first double of his fledgling career. In May 2018 he apologised to trainers via the Sporting Post after taking stick in the media for missing work. But things now appear to be turning for the 19 year old Jason Gates, who lost his 4kg claim last week and booted home a double at Scottsville yesterday to take his career tally to 22. The 2,5kg claimer steered 6-1 Yaas home for Louis Goosen and then followed up with Miesque Sunrise at 22-1 for Wayne Badenhorst.



Pauline Herman

The Traveller

Six of nine races at Fairview on Friday were won by lady trainers, with Candice Bass-Robinson, Sharon Kotzen and Yvette Bremner grabbing a double apiece. Yvette is currently at 7th position on the national log and has built a reputation as the 'Queen Of The Road' through her raiding exploits in Gauteng and the Cape. Her next major date is 2 March when National Park bids to win the Gr1 SA Classic at Turffontein.



Gold Circle

Not For The Last Time

Trainer Dennis Drier and his stable jockey Sean Veale were sadly not able to reach their goal of winning a Gr1 feature during the Cape Summer Season, although they came close on occasion. The combination has produced a nice double back home at Scottsville yesterday with the longshot Euphoric winning, and the promising looking Visionaire gelding Forthelastime making it two wins from his last three starts. Veale and Drier enjoy a decent 18% win strike-rate and are always worth including.



Gold Circle

Dennis Drier and Sean Veale are a leading combination on the East Coast

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

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BEST RATINGS

Mon 28 Jan 2019 - Wed 13 Feb 2019

PE Runners Lead A Merry Dance

Highest ratings recorded at home and away in Gauteng

MALES (up to 1600m)										
AR	horse	age	sire	breeder	date	fin	class	distance	course	aptitude
100	Tribal Fusion	6	Trippi	Favour Stud	10Feb	2	Cnd	1500	Scottsville	100/100/-/-/-
96	Mr Roy	6	Western Winter	Lammerskraal Stud	10Feb	1	Cnd	1500	Scottsville	96/96/-/-/-
90	Danza	6	Mambo In Seattle	Wicklow Stud	7Feb	2	MR90	1100	Vaal	90/85/-/-/-
87	Warrior's Rest	4	What A Winter	Lammerskraal Stud	5Feb	1	Cnd	1450	Vaal	84/89/84/90/-
87	Share Holder	2	Zoffany	bred in Australia	6Feb	1	Cnd-2	1000	Scottsville	87/-/-/-/-
86	Amor Ardiente	4	Antonius Pius	R Achmat	10Feb	3	Cnd	1500	Scottsville	55/86/81/75/-
85	Sea Urchin	7	Fort Beluga	Bush Hill Stud	1Feb	1	MR80	1400	Greyville	81/85/-/-/-
85	Fabian	3	What A Winter	Lammerskraal Stud	9Feb	2	MR79	1200	Kenilworth	85/83/-/-/-
85	Basilius	3	Potala Palace	Pecan Hill Stud Farm	7Feb	1	MR72	1200	Vaal	85/57/-/-/-
84	Big Voice Jack	3	Philanthropist	Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein	2Feb	2	MR79	1400	Turffontein	60/84/-/-/-

FEMALES (up to 1600m)										
AR	horse	age	sire	breeder	date	fin	class	distance	course	aptitude
98	Captain's Girl	5	Noordhoek Flyer	DGM Southey	6Feb	1	Cnd	1000	Scottsville	99/-/-/-/-
96	Madame Speaker	3	Pathfork	SE Bennett	8Feb	1	Cnd3f	1400	Fairview	87/96/-/-/-
95	Vision To Kill	5	Kildonan	MJR Mauvis	6Feb	2	Cnd	1000	Scottsville	100/-/-/-/-
94	Making Waves	3	Oratorio	Avontuur Farm & Zenzele Stud	1Feb	1	MR82f	1000	Greyville	94/-/-/-/-
86	March Music	3	Bold Silvano	Ascot Stud	1Feb	1	Cnd-3	1400	Fairview	80/86/-/-/-
86	Run Fox Run	3	Foxwedge	bred in Australia	9Feb	1	MR78f	1000	Kenilworth	86/-/-/-/-
85	Essenceoflife	5	Caesour	Ultra Thoroughbred Racing	30Jan	2	MR86f	1200	Scottsville	85/77/-/-/-
84	Via Sacra	4	Pathfork	Highlands	1Feb	1	Cndfm	1000	Fairview	84/-/-/-/-
84	Ilha Da Varlette	3	Var	Gold Star Stud	29Jan	1	MR84	1000	Vaal	84/-/-/-/-
83	Ulla	3	Querari	Maine Chance	5Feb	1	MR74f	1000	Vaal	84/-/-/-/-

MALES (1600m and more)										
AR	horse	age	sire	breeder	date	fin	class	distance	course	aptitude
104	Star Chestnut	6	Horse Chestnut	Drakenstein Stud	1Feb	1	Cnd	1600	Fairview	91/104/90/75/-
103	National Park	3	Gimmethgreenlight	Missing U Syndicate	2Feb	1	WFA-3	1600	Turffontein	67/105/-/-/-
99	Doosra	5	Captain Al	Varfontein Stud	2Feb	1	MR106	1600	Turffontein	94/99/-/-/-
98	Hawwaam	3	Silvano	Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein	2Feb	2	WFA-3	1600	Turffontein	-/98/-/-/-
96	Zouaves	5	Sail From Seattle	Danika Stud	2Feb	3	MR106	1600	Turffontein	90/105/87/-/-
96	Union Jack	6	Captain Al	Ridgemont	1Feb	4	Cnd	1600	Fairview	97/97/-/-/-
94	Noble Secret	4	Dynasty	Moutonshoek	2Feb	1	Cnd	2400	Turffontein	81/92/96/80/96/
93	Barahin	3	Gimmethgreenlight	Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein	2Feb	3	WFA-3	1600	Turffontein	78/93/-/-/-
93	Afrikaburn	7	Trippi	Drakenstein Stud	1Feb	5	Cnd	1600	Fairview	94/100/105/74/-
93	Puget Sound	4	Sail From Seattle	Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein	2Feb	4	MR106	1600	Turffontein	76/93/-/87/-

FEMALES (1600m and more)										
AR	horse	age	sire	breeder	date	fin	class	distance	course	aptitude
98	Redberry Lane	5	Western Winter	Lammerskraal Stud	9Feb	1	Cndfm	1600	Turffontein	-/102/82/-/-
94	Nafaayes	3	Exceed And Excel	bred in Australia	2Feb	1	WFA3f	1600	Turffontein	80/99/-/-/-
94	Running Brave	3	Brave Tin Soldier	Summerhill Stud	2Feb	2	WFA3f	1600	Turffontein	88/94/-/-/-
91	Celtic Sea	3	Captain Al	Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein	2Feb	3	WFA3f	1600	Turffontein	96/93/-/-/-
91	Factor Fifty	3	Marchfield	Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein	31Jan	1	MPfwm	1700	Vaal	-/59/91/-/-
91	Ronnie's Candy	3	King Of Kings	Graystone Stud	2Feb	4	WFA3f	1600	Turffontein	98/100/-/-/-
89	Chitengo	3	Elusive Fort	Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein	2Feb	5	WFA3f	1600	Turffontein	59/89/80/86/-
89	Return Flight	3	Pomodoro	M Sharkey	9Feb	2	Cnd	1600	Turffontein	-/97/-/-/-
88	Dagmar	3	Querari	Maine Chance	2Feb	6	WFA3f	1600	Turffontein	96/88/-/-/-
88	Fort Ember	6	Elusive Fort	Arc-en-Ciel	9Feb	1	Cnd	2000	Turffontein	-/100/101/101/-

3yo MALES (any distance)										
AR	horse	age	sire	breeder	date	fin	class	distance	course	aptitude
103	National Park	3	Gimmethgreenlight	Missing U Syndicate	2Feb	1	WFA-3	1600	Turffontein	67/105/-/-/-
98	Hawwaam	3	Silvano	Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein	2Feb	2	WFA-3	1600	Turffontein	-/98/-/-/-
93	Barahin	3	Gimmethgreenlight	Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein	2Feb	3	WFA-3	1600	Turffontein	78/93/-/-/-
92	Zillzaal	3	Silvano	Al Adiyaat	2Feb	4	WFA-3	1600	Turffontein	63/92/-/-/-
89	Vontreo	3	Mambo In Seattle	Boland Stud	2Feb	5	WFA-3	1600	Turffontein	72/89/-/-/-
87	Owlinthetree	3	Dynasty	Maine Chance	2Feb	6	WFA-3	1600	Turffontein	76/87/82/-/-
85	Fabian	3	What A Winter	Lammerskraal Stud	9Feb	2	MR79	1200	Kenilworth	85/83/-/-/-
85	Basilius	3	Potala Palace	Pecan Hill Stud Farm	7Feb	1	MR72	1200	Vaal	85/57/-/-/-
84	Big Voice Jack	3	Philanthropist	Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein	2Feb	2	MR79	1400	Turffontein	60/84/-/-/-
82	Drop Kick	3	Judpot	Varfontein Stud	2Feb	3	MR74	2000	Turffontein	72/75/74/82/-

3yo FEMALES (any distance)										
AR	horse	age	sire	breeder	date	fin	class	distance	course	aptitude
96	Madame Speaker	3	Pathfork	SE Bennett	8Feb	1	Cnd3f	1400	Fairview	87/96/-/-/-
94	Running Brave	3	Brave Tin Soldier	Summerhill Stud	2Feb	2	WFA3f	1600	Turffontein	88/94/-/-/-
94	Making Waves	3	Oratorio	Avontuur Farm & Zenzele Stud	1Feb	1	MR82f	1000	Greyville	94/-/-/-/-
94	Nafaayes	3	Exceed And Excel	bred in Australia	2Feb	1	WFA3f	1600	Turffontein	80/99/-/-/-
91	Ronnie's Candy	3	King Of Kings	Graystone Stud	2Feb	4	WFA3f	1600	Turffontein	98/100/-/-/-
91	Celtic Sea	3	Captain Al	Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein	2Feb	3	WFA3f	1600	Turffontein	96/93/-/-/-
91	Factor Fifty	3	Marchfield	Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein	31Jan	1	MPfwm	1700	Vaal	-/59/91/-/-
89	Return Flight	3	Pomodoro	M Sharkey	9Feb	2	Cnd	1600	Turffontein	-/97/-/-/-
89	Chitengo	3	Elusive Fort	Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein	2Feb	5	WFA3f	1600	Turffontein	59/89/80/86/-
88	Dagmar	3	Querari	Maine Chance	2Feb	6	WFA3f	1600	Turffontein	96/88/-/-/-

SIGNPOSTS

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

CAPETOWN NOIR (Western Winter)

Kamadeva 2c (Particular Passion by Rambo Dancer)

[Kenilworth 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate 1000m \(16/02\)](#)

CAPTAIN OF ALL (Captain Al)

Captain Yolo 2c (Encora de Lago by Encosta de Lago)

[Kenilworth 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate 1000m \(16/02\)](#)

Allmyloving 2f (Julia's World by Sportsworld)

[Turffontein 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate \(Fillies\) 1000m \(16/02\)](#)

Chief Officer 2c (Scholarship by Fanatic Dane)

[Scottsville 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate 1100m \(17/02\)](#)

Lady Legend 2f (Maritzburg by Elusive Quality)

[Scottsville 2 Maiden Juvenile Plate \(Fillies\) 1100m \(17/02\)](#)

Royal Splurge 2f (Judbury by Judpot)

[Scottsville 2 Maiden Juvenile Plate \(Fillies\) 1100m \(17/02\)](#)

FLOWER ALLEY (Distorted Humor)

Juniper Lane 2g (Gin Rummy by Tapit)

[Scottsville 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate 1100m \(17/02\)](#)

JACKSON (Dynasty)

Tam's Lover 2c (Addy My Love by Western Winter)

[Scottsville 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate 1100m \(17/02\)](#)

POTALA PALACE (Singspiel)

Crimson Castle 2f (Wine Dark Sea by Touch Gold)

[Turffontein 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate \(Fillies\) 1000m \(16/02\)](#)

SOFT FALLING RAIN (National Assembly)

Gin Fizz 2f (Espumanti by Dansili)

[Turffontein 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate \(Fillies\) 1000m \(16/02\)](#)

Makara 2f (Varuna by Var)

[Turffontein 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate \(Fillies\) 1000m \(16/02\)](#)

2nd season sires - 3yo's

ATO (Royal Academy)

At The Office 3g (All About Style by Hawk Wing)

[Kenilworth 4 Maiden Plate 1600m \(16/02\)](#)

DUKE OF MARMALADE (Danehill)

Marmalade Sky 3g (Rei Rei by Doowaley)

[Fairview 3 Maiden Plate \(F&M\)\(Polytrack\) 1300m \(15/02\)](#)

Celestial Prince 3g (Imperious Star by Navarone)

[Fairview 5 Maiden Plate \(Polytrack\) 1900m \(15/02\)](#)

Mornington Sheila 3g (Scarlet Sheila by Red Ransom)

[Turffontein 3 Maiden Plate \(F&M\) 1160m \(16/02\)](#)

Wallis Simpson 3g (King's Temptress by King of Kings)

[Kenilworth 6 MR 72 Handicap \(F&M\) 1400m \(16/02\)](#)

Super Fine 3g (Jalinga by Jallad)

[Turffontein 10 Maiden Plate \(F&M\) 1600m \(16/02\)](#)

Duke Of Spin 3g (Justthewayyouare by Fort Wood)

[Scottsville 7 umThombothi Stakes \(Non-Blacktype\) 1950m \(17/02\)](#)

JACKSON (Dynasty)

Larry Jack 3g (Weather Report by Silvano)

[Fairview 2 MR 80 Handicap \(Polytrack\) 1200m \(15/02\)](#)

Bountiful Strength 3g (Generous Gabriella by Forest Wildcat)

[Kenilworth 5 MR 72 Handicap 1000m \(16/02\)](#)

Spirit Of Song 3g (Gardener's Delight by Giant's Causeway)

[Kenilworth 7 MR 79 Handicap 1400m \(16/02\)](#)

Crowded House 3g (Tarragon by Toreador)

[Kenilworth 8 MR 72 Handicap \(F&M\) 1400m \(16/02\)](#)

MASTER OF MY FATE (Jet Master)

Master Newton 3g (Amazing Grace by Spectrum)

[Fairview 4 MR 65 Handicap \(Polytrack\) 1300m \(15/02\)](#)

Master Design 3g (Graphic Design by Malhub)

[Fairview 5 Maiden Plate \(Polytrack\) 1900m \(15/02\)](#)

Nolimitations 3g (Lady B Sharp by Shalford)

[Kenilworth 2 Maiden Plate 1200m \(16/02\)](#)

Blush Scarlet 3g (Blushing Fairy by Jallad)

[Kenilworth 3 Maiden Plate \(F&M\) 1400m \(16/02\)](#)

Spoils Of War 3g (Empress Of War by Caesour)

[Kenilworth 3 Maiden Plate \(F&M\) 1400m \(16/02\)](#)

Diary Date 3g (Stella's Journal by London News)

[Kenilworth 3 Maiden Plate \(F&M\) 1400m \(16/02\)](#)

Fame Era 3g (So Impressed by Al Mufti)

[Kenilworth 3 Maiden Plate \(F&M\) 1400m \(16/02\)](#)

Destinys Game 3g (Bay Of Desire by Red Ransom)

[Turffontein 3 Maiden Plate \(F&M\) 1160m \(16/02\)](#)

Turf Master 3g (Couturier by Fort Wood)

[Turffontein 9 Maiden Plate 1600m \(16/02\)](#)

Master Of The Sea 3g (Ocean Island by Counter Action)

[Scottsville 4 Maiden Plate 1400m \(17/02\)](#)

Face Of An Angel 3g (Pure Reason by Jallad)

[Scottsville 5 MR 70 Handicap \(F&M\) 1400m \(17/02\)](#)

NOBLE TUNE (Unbridled's Song)

Albrandino 3g (Boreal Applause by Royal Applause)

[Fairview 4 MR 65 Handicap \(Polytrack\) 1300m \(15/02\)](#)

Noble Leader 3g (Take The Lead by Al Mufti)

[Fairview 5 Maiden Plate \(Polytrack\) 1900m \(15/02\)](#)

Ayita 3g (Star Of Savannah by What A Prospect)

[Fairview 5 Maiden Plate \(Polytrack\) 1900m \(15/02\)](#)

Romanesca 3g (Touch Of Nobility by Elusive Quality)

[Scottsville 4 Maiden Plate 1400m \(17/02\)](#)

POMODORO (Jet Master)

Destruction Boy 3g (Silver Skies by Captain Al)

[Kenilworth 4 Maiden Plate 1600m \(16/02\)](#)

Opensea 3g (Elsabee by Silvano)

[Scottsville 4 Maiden Plate 1400m \(17/02\)](#)

Call To Duty 3g (Beyond by Martinelli)

[Scottsville 4 Maiden Plate 1400m \(17/02\)](#)

POTALA PALACE (Singspiel)

Basilus 3g (Fashion Queen by Spectrum)

[Turffontein 4 MR 84 Handicap 1160m \(16/02\)](#)

Imperial Royal 3g (Irish Royal by Kalanisi)

[Scottsville 8 MR 60 Handicap \(F&M\) 1600m \(17/02\)](#)

REDOUTE'S PROMISE (Redoute's Choice)

Aldo 3g (Wishful Eye by Var)

[Fairview 7 MR 98 Handicap \(Polytrack\) 1200m \(15/02\)](#)

Alcina 3g (Precious Promise by Spectrum)

[Turffontein 3 Maiden Plate \(F&M\) 1160m \(16/02\)](#)

SKITT SKIZZLE (Jet Master)

Mount Everest 3g (Modern Age by Modern Day)

[Scottsville 4 Maiden Plate 1400m \(17/02\)](#)

THE APACHE (Mogok)

Senior Lizard 3g (Belle Petite by Lizard Island)

[Turffontein 8 Assessment Plate 2000m \(16/02\)](#)

WHERE'S THAT TIGER (Storm Cat)

Pega D'oro 3g (Care To Dance by Windrush)

[Kenilworth 2 Maiden Plate 1200m \(16/02\)](#)

Golden Tippy 3g (Tiawana by Saumarez)

[Kenilworth 2 Maiden Plate 1200m \(16/02\)](#)

Perfect Tigress 3g (Tree Of Perfection by Toreador)

[Turffontein 6 MR 87 Handicap \(F&M\) 1400m \(16/02\)](#)

Icon Princess 3g (Icon Lady by Model Man)

[Kenilworth 8 MR 72 Handicap \(F&M\) 1400m \(16/02\)](#)

SIGNPOSTS

Notable Maiden Winners

ALL TOO HARD

Rated AR 81 **Frosted** Gold (2c Mar d'Or by Verglas)

Juvenile Plate Vaal (1000m) (7/2)

Solid into the red, Mike De Kock's Australian-bred newcomer was taken straight to the front and led throughout. He was always in command and won without any anxious moments by two and a quarter. Exciting!

CAPTAIN AL

Rated AR 77 **Cousin Liz** (2f Fiesta Queen by Parade Leader)

Maiden Juvenile Plate (f) Kenilworth (1000m) (9/2)

Backed into odds-on at the track, this daughter of Captain Al was soon up handy. She was ridden to lead as they approached the 200m marker and went on to score with some in hand by two. Both trainer and jockey spoke very highly of her when interviewed after the race.

Horses To Follow

FOXWEDGE

Rated AR 86 **Run Fox Run** (3f Victory Cry by General Nediym)

MR78 Handicap (F&M) Kenilworth (1000m) (9/2)

A facile winner of her only previous racecourse appearance Brett Crawford's charge was soon positioned up with the speed here. She asserted her authority going through the 400m, being asked to do no more than was necessary by Anton Marcus, and won with authority.

Winners Bred Abroad

another **AUSHORSE** winner

Share Holder (AUS) 2c Zoffany- Ashanti Queen(AUS) (Oratorio)

Scottsville 1000m (06/02)

Frosted Gold (NZ) 2c All Too Hard- Mary d'Or(FR) (Verglas)

Vaal 1000m (07/02)

Cabo da Cruz (IRE) 4g Cape Cross- Pardoven(IRE) (Clodovil)

Kenilworth 1200m (09/02)

another **AUSHORSE** winner

Run Fox Run (AUS) 3f Foxwedge- Victory Cry(AUS)

(General Nediym)

Kenilworth 1000m (09/02)

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.

SPORTS AND BETTING

English FA Cup 5th Round

Chelsea vs Manchester Utd | Mon 18 Feb | Stamford Bridge | 21:30



Monday night football returns with a repeat of last season's FA Cup final as Chelsea do battle with Manchester United at Stamford Bridge, with both teams fighting it out with each other for more than just a

domestic trophy. A win here for either club and that would give them the required confidence needed to help surge their push for top four. The Blues need a response after suffering their heaviest defeat in the Premier League, losing 6-0 to Man City, while United will look to continue where their crosstown rivals left off and humiliate Chelsea further.

To catch up with Jesse Nagel previews [CLICK HERE](#)

TO WIN

Chelsea 21/20

Draw 49/20

Manchester United 24/10

CHELSEA

After a catastrophic display against Manchester City, losing 6-0 to the champions, Chelsea need a massive wake-up if they are to kick on and finish the season off strongly. Maurizio Sarri started like a house on fire, but has since been found out and you get the feeling that the Italian mentor might be out of a job pretty soon.

Will Sarri ever change his stale and dried out tactics? He certainly needs to if he wants to achieve his targets for the rest of the campaign. Undoubtedly the Blues' two best players are Eden Hazard and N'Golo Kante – both of whom have played out of position this season, with Hazard utilised as a false-nine prior to Gonzalo Higuain's arrival, while Kante has never played in his defensive midfield role – due to Sarri's stubbornness to leave Jorginho in his preferred position.

MANCHESTER UNITED

Ole, Ole, Ole, Ole! The cry for change at Manchester United couldn't be more justified, with Ole Gunnar Solskjaer doing an immense job since taking over the reins, leaving the bitter spell of Jose Mourinho long behind their millions of fans.

What Solskjaer has brought back to United is the swagger they have lacked in so many years – particularly in the post-Fergie era, where the Red Devils have somewhat become a banter club.

He's come in and done the basics, which, in all fairness, would've worked from the get-go, had Mourinho not been so stubborn in his coaching methods.

Solskjaer can do no wrong at the moment, and with his star players in the form of their lives, it almost seems easier to win than to lose. Paul Pogba has shown that he has all the capabilities of being one of the best footballers on the planet, in fact, only Kevin De Bruyne can really be put ahead of him at this time.

PREDICTION: Manchester United (24/10)

CLOCKWATCHING WITH STEVE FURNISH

Never Too Far

A REVIEW OF THE WEEK'S BEST SPEEDRATINGS

Consistency Reward

Greyville 3 February

They raced on the poly track on Sunday where the fastest of the three 1600m events was the bill topping MR88 Handicap won by the ultra-consistent SIR BERNADINI. Winning for the fourth time in fourteen starts here, Dennis Bosch's charge raced in the rear early on. He ran on best of all when the race developed into a sprint early in the straight and under a well-judged ride from Anton Marcus, he got up late to deny the always handy TOLTEC.

A MR74 Handicap had opened up proceedings and in what proved to be the faster of the two 1600m races BRAVO ZULU registered his third career victory. Taken straight to the front by apprentice Sakayi, the son of Brave Tin Soldier led throughout. He kept on strongly in the short home straight and won by just under a length from the running on second favourite KINGSMEAD.

The only other distance to stage more than one race was 1200m where the faster of the two MR64 Handicaps was the second division in which the veteran PUT-CHINI took his tally of wins to eight. Soon up handy, the Bezrin gelding was ridden to lead 250m out and kept on strongly late to beat the gaining BEDAZZLED JOKER (came from the rear).

Titbits Cramped 400m out, EAST LYNNE was finishing best of all when beaten a length and three quarters into third in the MR78 Handicap over 1600m.

Chief In Command

Vaal 5 February

In terms of distance the easiest victory on the Vaal's classic track on Tuesday was that of CHIEF OF STATE in the opening work rider's maiden plate over 1000m. Soon positioned close to the speed, Paul Peter's charge took up the running 350m out and with the rest some nine lengths adrift, he beat his staying on stable companion SAINT MICHAEL (made the run-

ning) by two and three quarters.

They ran three races over 1000m in total and the quickest of these was the MR74 Handicap in which ULLA found the winner's enclosure. Now a winner of three from nine, the daughter of Querari was always handy. She ran on strongly over the final 400m and got the better of the more fancied ELBI by a half.

The MR83 Handicap for the girls was the faster of the two 1600m races and here victory went to the Mike De Kock trained ONLY TO WIN. Another to race handy, the daughter of Var took up the running 150m out, and kept on strongly late to beat the running on CRIMSON ROYALE by a half.

Titbits Sent off a strong favourite at 21/20, SRING POETRY took up the running 300m out and comfortably accounted for the running on AZKUR by two and a quarter.

Doing The Business

Scottsville 6 February

CAPTAIN'S GIRL in the pinnacle stakes over 1000m was the best bet on the card for many in Pietermaritzburg on Wednesday and the Noordhoek Flyer mare didn't let down her supporters. More often than not seen racing up with the speed, Louis Goosen's charge raced 6th a good five lengths off the pace here. Once given rein though she quickened well and under a well-judged ride from Anton Marcus she got up late to beat the running on VISION TO KILL (came from the rear) by a half.

The MR88 Handicap was not surprisingly the faster of the two 1400m races and in what proved to be a real thriller victory here went to the easy to back DIAMANTE. Sent off as the rank outsider of the ten horse party at 28/1, Mark Dixon's charge led throughout. She kept on strongly over the final 400m and held on by the narrowest of margins from the running on SHE'S A DREAM.

They also ran two races over 1950m and stopping the clock in the faster time here was SIBERIAN HUSKY in the MR72 Handicap. Brett Crawford's charge got

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

Ex's 'N Oh's.....	won 71/10
Ulla	won 113/20
Siberian Husky	won 9/2
Only To Win	won 41/10
Sir Bernadini	won 3/1
Maa Nonu	won 22/10
Captain's Girl	won 18/10
Wordbuster	won 16/10

Top speed ratings for this weekend

(Ratings shown have already been adjusted to allocated weights)

FAIRVIEW (FRI)

- Race 1: (3) Desert Wanderer 13
 Race 2: (5) Valentinik 48
 Race 3: (2) Eternal Night 2
 Race 4: (9) Limestone Mass 38
 Race 5: (9) Hither Green 15
 Race 6: (12) Let It Flow 60
 Race 7: (7) Border Control 71
 Race 8: (3) Espressoivo 40
 Race 9: (1) Tsessebe 38

TURFFONTEIN (SAT)

- Race 1: (13) See My Vision 5
 Race 2: (2) Condor Gulch 56
 Race 3: (1) Hartleyfive 14
 Race 4: (2) Talktothestars 61
 Race 5: (5) Infamous Fox 83
 Race 6: (9) Mar Del Sur 62
 Race 7: (3) Rivarine 92
 Race 8: (3) Protea Paradise 41
 Race 9: (2) Dry Your Eyes 5
 Race 10: (7) Take My Word 13

KENILWORTH (SAT)

- Race 1: (9) The Last Supper 8
Race 2: (2) Inertia 10 (EW)
 Race 3: (1) Louisa May 22
 Race 4: (1) Saint West 13
 Race 5: (1) Johnny Black 46
 Race 6: (7) Favola 42
 Race 7: (5) Hotel Cipriani 59
 Race 8: (10) Hammie's Fan 44

SCOTTVILLE (SUN)

- Race 1: (6) Ring Of Fire 12
 Race 2: (3) Compass Fire 1
 Race 3: (3) Valeriana 14
 Race 4: (1) Canadian Bolt 15
 Race 5: (10) Everlasting Love 50
 Race 6: (3) Buffalo Soldier 63
Race 7: (2) Flichity By Farr 68 (NAP*)
 Race 8: (10) Such A Rush 29

Nap bets

* Fancied ** Strongly fancied
 *** Very strongly fancied

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

HERO'S HONOUR (G Alexander, Gauteng)
ROCK A ROLL DANCER (S Pettigrew, Gauteng)


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CLOCKWATCHING CONT.

away well when the gates opened and soon up handy raced prominent throughout. He put his head in front 150m out and comfortably accounted for the 3yo WHITE LIGHTNING by a length and a half.

Titbits HASHTAGGTHEMOST and SHEIK'S STORM both ran on well from the rear when 1st & 2nd respectively in the MR68 Handicap over 1200m.

Out In Front

Vaal 7 February

Interestingly, the only two previous winners to contest the juvenile plate on Thursday had both won in Kimberley and it was one of those, LEAGUE OF HER OWN who won here. Taken straight to the front by Sherman Brown, Stephanus Botha's charge led throughout. She kept on strongly at the business end of the race and with the rest over five lengths adrift she beat the heavily supported R3,5M newcomer DIVE CAPTAIN by two and a half.

They ran three races over 1000m in total and the fastest of these was the assessment plate won by the progressive SUMMER AFTERNOON. Now a winner of two from three, Sean Tarry's charge also raced from the front. She kept on determinedly below the distance and in what proved to be a real thriller she held on by the narrowest of margins from the always handy TOPMAST.

They also ran three races over 1200m. The MR72 Handicap was the fastest of these and here victory went to the top weight BASILIUS. Always handy, Toby Spies' charge hung badly when first challenged by CERTIFIABLE 250m out, and in another

classic finish he only got the verdict by a neck.

Titbits The lightly raced 3yo ROCK A ROLL DANCER came from the rear when beating some very useful rivals going away in the assessment plate over 1200m.

The heavily supported favourite FIRE AND RESCUE easily accounted for his thirteen rivals when getting off the mark in the maiden plate over 1600m.

July Target

Turffontein 9 February

The Durban July hopeful HERO'S HONOUR in the 1600m assessment plate was the best bet for most on Saturday's inner track card and he duly landed the odds. Soon up handy, the Await The Dawn gelding was always poised to strike. He did so 250m out and with the rest some 4,4 lengths adrift he beat the staying on pacemaker RETURN FLIGHT by a length and a quarter.

There were four races run over 1600m in total and in a time 1,34 seconds faster than that of Hero's Honour, D'Arrivee won the MR86 Handicap. Always handy, Candice Dawson's charge took up the running 200m out and won well by a length and three quarters.

The only other distance to stage more than one race was 1450m where the faster of the two was the MR74 Handicap won by the rejuvenated JUBILEE LINE. Nicely positioned in third when the race began in earnest, the 6yo son of Dynasty was also poised to strike. He did so going through the 300m and comfortably accounted for the always chasing WILDLIFE SAFARI by a length and a half.

FASTEST TIMES

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

GREYVILLE (POLY) 3 FEBRUARY

Going Standard	
Course Variant: 0,33s slow	
1000m (2) Bravo Zulu	57,88
1200m (2) Putchini	71,67
1400m (1) Bel Canto Chorus	85,38
1600m (3) Sir Bernadini	95,58

VAAL (CLASSIC) 5 FEBRUARY

Penetrometer 22 – Going Good	
1000m (3) Ulla	57,40
1450m (1) Warrior's Rest	86,75
1600m (2) Only To Win	97,73
2000m (1) Spring Poetry	124,88
2400m (1) Festive Linnari	153,19

SCOTTSVILLE (INSIDE) 6 FEBRUARY

Penetrometer 26 – Going Good to Soft	
Course Variant: 0,48s slow	
1000m (2) Captain's Girl	56,17
1200m (2) Hashtagthemost	69,50
1400m (2) Diamante	83,31
1950m (2) Siberian Husky	122,54

VAAL 7 FEBRUARY

Penetrometer 22 – Going Good	
Course Variant: 0,09s slow	
1000m (3) Summer Afternoon	57,09
1100m (1) Old Man Tyme	62,58
1200m (3) Basilius	69,51
1600m (2) Samarra	97,26

TURFFONTEIN (INSIDE) 9 FEBRUARY

Penetrometer 21 – Going Good	
Course Variant: 1,21s slow	
1200m (1) Starlighttempress	72,43
1450m (2) Jubilee Line	88,69
1600m (4) D'Arrivee	97,76
1800m (1) Nimcha	113,30
2000m (1) Fort Ember	127,20
2600m (1) Emily Hobhouse	168,87

Titbits Dame Kelly ran on well from midfield when getting up late to win the girl's division of the assessment plate over 1600m.

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