

Pick 6 Record!

The Vodacom Durban July day positivity and spirit of renewal took another step up with the big day Pick 6 pool rocketing way ahead of projections to reach a record R22 316 079.

And it was Stuart Pettigrew and Diego De Gouveia who had the big exotic players on the edge of their seats as the Biarritz colt Walter Smoothie stayed on best of the lot to gain a courageous career peak victory in the R500 000 Gr3 Gold Vase.

The Pick 6 showed a minimum of R10 after the first leg.

Richard Fourie took the luckless topweight Strathdon up to lead around the halfway mark of the 3000m contest and the son of Silvano, bidding for an overdue seventh career victory, was still plugging away at the 200m marker as the challenges came from all sides.

Just when the Ramsden filly Dynasty's Blossom slipped through down the inside rail and looked the major threat, De Gouveia scythed through between runners, and Walter Smoothie stayed on smartest to win by a quarter length in a time of 194,85 secs.

Dynasty's Blossom headed the gallant Strathdon into third, with the longshot Wealthy boosting the quartet dividend to in excess of R10 000 in fourth.

The favourite Sunshine Silk was not disgraced from her wide draw, and finished fifth, and under two lengths off the winner.

Bred by the Rous Bros, Walter Smoothie is a son of Biarritz (Count Dubois) out of the Strike Smartly mare, Wild Strike.

A winner of the 2018 Listed Racing Association Stakes as a career high, he took his tally to 5 victories with 10 places from 23 starts. Walter Smoothie has won R845 575 in stakes.

Gr3 Gold Vase 3000m

Winner Walter Smoothie led until 2000m and then raced 3rd; led again 70m

Runner-up Dynasty's Blossom (best handicapped) raced 9th entering the home straight three lengths behind the eventual winner; ran on strongly

Third Strathdon led 2000m; kept on determinedly in the home straight

Time: This comparatively was by far the slowest of the eight races on turf. We gave the third (prev 100/102/100/101/105) 105 which makes the winner (prev 92/87/96/92/94) 100 and the runner-up (prev 91/90/93/96/84) 94.

100	1	0.00	WALTER SMOOTHIE	(5)	57.0	D De Gouveia	9/1
4 ch c Biarritz - Wild Strike (Strike Smartly)							
94	2	0.25	DYNASTY'S BLOSSOM	(7)	54.5	S Khumalo	13/2
4 b f Dynasty - Crimson Blossom (IRE) (Danehill Dancer)							
105	3	0.65	STRATHDON	(15)	60.0	R Fourie	5/1
5 ch g Silvano - Wintersweet (Western Winter)							
94	4	1.90	Wealthy	(11)	55.5	S Veale	36/1
91	5	1.95	Sunshine Silk	(14)	54.5	M v Rensburg	83/20
93	6	2.00	Major Return	(2)	51.5	L J Ferraris	18/1
91	7	2.50	Flichity By Farr	(12)	54.5	L Hewitson	83/20
93	8	5.50	Paths Of Victory	(10)	54.0	W Kennedy	20/1
78	9	6.50	Multi Gold	(6)	51.5	R Munger	36/1
90	10	6.60	Mangrove	(3)	57.0	N Juglall	55/1
82	11	7.60	Wonderous Climber	(4)	54.0	R Danielson	16/1
88	12	7.65	Pacific Chestnut	(8)	57.0	C Zackey	28/1
77	13	10.90	Evolver	(9)	54.0	C Maujean	18/1
71	14	12.70	Ballad Of The Sea	(1)	52.5	G Cheyne	28/1
71	15	17.20	Warfarer	(13)	55.5	M Khan	60/1
Time: 194.85s (64.95s avg/1000m, or 55km/h) SP Total %: 116%							
1st T: ST Pettigrew O: Mr V C Veeramootoo B: Rous Bros							

Very Smooth!

While he is not the most consistent kid on the block, the Stuart Pettigrew-trained Walter Smoothie is a dour stayer. He was in a galloping mood on Saturday as he outgunned his nine rivals to win the R250 000 Listed Racing Association Handicap over the Gold Cup trip of 3200m.

The son of Biarritz overcame the stress of a false start – he went the furthest of all the runners – and with replacement rider Diego De Gouveia riding a nicely judged race tracking the pacemaking Tirzan all the way round, he stayed on strongly despite a late challenge from favourite Ali Bon Dubai to register his first stakes success.

Starting at 18-1, Walter Smoothie beat Ali Bon Dubai by 1,20 lengths in a time of 209,41 secs with long-time leader Tirzan a further 4,20 lengths back in third.

Bred by the Rous Bros, Walter Smoothie is a son of Biarritz (Count Dubois) out of the Strike Smartly mare, Wild Strike.

A winner of 5 races with 7 places from 16 starts, Walter Smoothie has won R464 075 in stakes.

Racing Association Handicap (L) 3200m

Winner Walter Smoothie raced 2nd; led 400m
 Runner-up Ali Bon Dubai raced 6th; about 3 lengths behind the eventual winner at 400m; ran on; jockey Khan was fined R750 for striking the horse more than three times in consecutive strides
 Third Tirzan set the pace raced five lengths clear; headed 400m out; stayed on, but well beaten

Time: Although the field was very strung out, the pace was a false one and the overall time was slow. We gave the winner (prev 86/87/87/74/81) 87, which makes the runner-up (prev 75/82/73/82/85) 86 and the third (prev 71/72/55/65/72) 68

87	1	0.00	WALTER SMOOTHIE	(5)	58.0	D De Gouveia	18/1
4 ch c Biarritz - Wild Strike (Strike Smartly)							
86	2	1.20	ALI BON DUBAI	(6)	58.5	M Khan	61/20
5 b g Lateral - Zundra (Count Dubois)							
68	3	5.80	TIRZAN	(10)	53.5	S Khumalo	12/1
5 b g Seventh Rock - Tirza (Silvano)							
67	4	10.00	Arte	(3)	55.5	P Strydom	9/2
57	5	11.50	Horseplay	(2)	52.0	M Yeni	26/10
55	6	12.60	Mighty And Magic	(7)	52.0	L Hewitson	31/4
58	7	14.20	Top Classman	(8)	54.5	S Moodley	13/1
36	8	24.90	Kings Cup	(4)	52.0	L Bester	28/1
47	9	26.80	Bondiblu	(1)	58.0	R Danielson	44/1
53	10	27.00	Mr Winsome	(9)	61.0	C Zackey	11/1
Time: 209.41s (65.44s avg/1000m, or 55km/h) SP Total %: 116%							
1st T: ST Pettigrew O: Mr V C Veeramootoo B: Rous Bros							