

## Zero's The Hero

The scratching of Red Chesnut Road (blood disorder) and Chantyman (Stipes permission) had the 1000m feature field reduced to 14 runners on the soft track.

With the pace on from the gun, Keanan Steyn had Great Shaka bowling along out front ahead of Rocky Valley, Down To Zero and Rivarine.

Prince Of Kahal moved up strongly at the 300m as Rivarine looked dangerous down the outside and Down To Zero maintained a solid pace.

But riding a superbly judged race, Marco van Rensburg kept the 20-1 shot Down To Zero interested and he came forward strongly to score a hard earned 0,30 length win in a time of 57,51 secs.

The consistent Prince Of Kahal stayed on well for second and must be overdue for his sixth win as he maintains a solid form profile.

The topweighted Rebel's Champ showed no after-effects of his long Cape journey and after getting tight down the outside rail, rattled on well late in the race for third 1,80 lengths further back, with Donny G taking the quartet into another dividend zone in fourth.

Bred by the Sorrento Stud supremo Terry Andrews, Down To Zero is a son of the very versatile Judpot (A.P.Indy) out of the one-time winner Armatrading (Var).

A R220 000 2016 CTS March Yearling sale buy to the bid of trainer Mike Azzie, the winner took his earnings to R512 750 with his 4th win and 8 places from 16 starts.

### Gr3 Tommy Hotspur Handicap 1000m

Winner Down To Zero was always handy; led 100m; ran on Runner-up Prince Of Kahal raced 9th; ran on strongly to be narrowly beaten

Third Rebel's Champ raced in the rear 3 lengths behind the eventual winner at 400m, when level with the runner-up; ran on, but no chance with first

two; was reported coughing

**Time:** This was the fastest of the afternoon's four sprint races. We gave the third (prev 105/103/105/105/85) 101 which makes the winner (prev 85/95/91/91/68) 96 and the runner-up (prev 79/87/78/90/91) 94

96	<b>1</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>DOWN TO ZERO</b>	(7)	55.5	M v Rensburg	18/1
4 b g	Judpot - Armatrading (Var)						
94	<b>2</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>PRINCE OF KAHAL</b>	(6)	55.5	M Yeni	17/4
4 ch g	Kahal - Vogue (Model Man)						
101	<b>3</b>	<b>2.10</b>	<b>REBEL'S CHAMP</b>	(11)	62.0	C Herrera Gomez	19/4
4 ch g	Rebel King - Anne Bonny (Captain Al)						
80	<b>4</b>	<b>2.30</b>	Donny G	(9)	52.5	H vd Hoven	44/1
89	<b>5</b>	<b>2.50</b>	Rivarine	(14)	57.0	G Lerena	15/4
88	<b>6</b>	<b>2.80</b>	Exquisite Touch	(10)	57.0	L Hewitson	17/2
75	<b>7</b>	<b>3.50</b>	Great Shaka	(2)	52.5	K Steyn	15/1
68	<b>8</b>	<b>5.60</b>	Tandava	(1)	53.0	J Penny	25/1
64	<b>9</b>	<b>5.85</b>	Valbonne	(13)	52.0	R Munger	11/1
66	<b>10</b>	<b>6.10</b>	Cathedral County	(3)	53.0	C Habib	13/1
64	<b>11</b>	<b>7.35</b>	Rocky Valley	(5)	54.5	C Zackey	20/1
57	<b>12</b>	<b>7.75</b>	Premier Show	(8)	52.0	K Matsunyane	28/1
60	<b>13</b>	<b>8.55</b>	Pure Blonde	(12)	55.0	R Simons	25/1
28	<b>14</b>	<b>15.55</b>	Isphan	(4)	53.0	D Schwarz	30/1

**Time:** 57.51s (57.51s avg/1000m, or 63km/h) **SP Total %:** 116%

1st **T:**MG & AA Azzie **O:**Messrs P J Cotterell, A D Carr & J A Carr

**B:**TD Andrews

## Thriller

Robbie Sage's Judpot gelding Coral Fever crowned a purple patch for the Eastern Cape-based Ascot Stud when he stormed home in a thriller to win the R1 million Peermont Emperors Palace Gr2 Charity Mile at Turffontein on Saturday and set up a date with destiny in the Summer Cup on 1 December.

The Parker family were thrilled to strike gold just last weekend with their home-bred champion Rock Opera becoming the first SA-bred mare to produce a Gr1 winner on French soil courtesy of Royal Meeting in the Criterium International at Chantilly.

And it was bulls-eye again for the leading Stud as the never-say-die Coral Fever lumped his 61kgs to a glorious victory over a trip short of his best

On a day of testing results, Coral Fever's rousing finish from third last into the home straight was an arrow through the heart for all but 24 live Pick 6 tickets, as he made light of his impost in a great finish to deny Tilbury Fort victory on the line.

The pacemaking Champagne Haze and Full Mast led the charge at the 350m marker, but with a stampede the length and breadth of the track, any one of ten runners could win inside the 200m.

Just as Lyle Hewitson burst his way through a gap with Tilbury Fort and looked a winner, the current national log leader Muzi Yeni came charging down the outside with a winding left-handed crop as Coral Fever dived for the line.

A winner a stride before and a stride after the past, Tilbury Fort was relegated by a nose as Coral Fever lunged with all his heart to gain an unlikely victory in a time of 96,26 secs.

Coral Fever, a Gr1 winner of the President's Champions Challenge, ran third behind Liege in the 2017 Summer Cup and his price is bound to shorten for the big race in December.

A R130 000 National Yearling Sale graduate, the Ascot Stud-bred Coral Fever races for Colin Bird and Sylvia Vrska – he was their first Gr1 winner in over 40 years of racing – and is a son of Judpot (AP Indy) out of the two-time winner, Coral Tree (Rich Man's Gold).

Coral Fever has now won 7 races with 7 places from 21 starts for stakes of R4 220 650.

### Gr2 Emperors Palace Charity Mile 1600m

Winner Coral Fever was drawn wide; raced well back, and was 8th at 400m; ran on strongly to lead dying strides

Runner-up Tilbury Fort raced well back and was 10th at 400m; ran on strongly with winner; beaten a short head

Third Doosra raced 9th and was 6th at 400m; ran on well, matching strides with first two home

**Time:** Comparatively this was only the fifth fastest of the nine races around the turn. We gave the 5th 102 which makes the winner (prev 103/102/106/102/96) 113, the runner-up (prev 85/93/94/95/86) 96 and the third (prev 83/94/97/91/94) 94

113	<b>1</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>CORAL FEVER</b>	(14)	61.0	M Yeni	18/1
6 ch g	Judpot - Coral Tree (Rich Man's Gold)						
96	<b>2</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>TILBURY FORT</b>	(9)	53.5	L Hewitson	71/10
5 b g	Horse Chestnut - Colleen (Restructure)						
94	<b>3</b>	<b>0.35</b>	<b>DOOSRA</b>	(3)	53.0	K De Melo	8/1
5 b g	Captain Al - Caughtintheslips (Caesour)						
94	<b>4</b>	<b>0.55</b>	Arctica	(7)	53.0	R Munger	16/1
102	<b>5</b>	<b>1.35</b>	Captain Aldo	(2)	57.5	W Kennedy	16/1
88	<b>6</b>	<b>2.15</b>	Unagi	(12)	52.0	D Schwarz	36/1
96	<b>7</b>	<b>2.35</b>	Matador Man	(1)	56.0	S Khumalo	41/10
93	<b>8</b>	<b>2.95</b>	Social Order	(10)	55.0	C Maujean	22/1
90	<b>9</b>	<b>4.20</b>	Noble Secret	(4)	55.0	R Simons	9/2
90	<b>10</b>	<b>4.80</b>	Champagne Haze	(16)	55.5	C Zackey	44/1
89	<b>11</b>	<b>5.30</b>	Bulleting Home	(5)	55.5	P Strydom	16/1
84	<b>12</b>	<b>5.40</b>	Infamous Fox	(13)	53.5	R Danielson	14/1
88	<b>13</b>	<b>5.70</b>	Romany Prince	(6)	55.5	L J Ferraris	44/1
80	<b>14</b>	<b>9.20</b>	New Predator	(11)	55.5	G Lerena	16/1
73	<b>15</b>	<b>11.50</b>	Full Mast	(15)	54.5	K Zechner	20/1
85	<b>16</b>	<b>12.75</b>	Hat Puntano	(8)	61.0	C Orffer	25/1

**Time:** 96.26s (60.16s avg/1000m, or 60km/h) **SP Total %:** 117%

1st **T:**R Sage **O:**Ms Sylvia Vrska & Mr Colin Bird **B:**Ascot Stud

## Silver Bullet

Trainer Paul Lafferty pulled a feature ace out of the hat for the SA Champions Season host province when the Judpot 3yo Sniper Shot built on smart seconds in the Byerley Turk and Daisy Guineas to win the Gr2 Post Merchants at Greyville on Friday evening.

The subject of a slightly interrupted prep, courtesy of a pulled muscle and the distraction of a failed sales offer after failing his piroplasmiasis test, the obviously talented Sniper Shot showed no side effects as he took full advantage of a helter skelter pace to cut the pacemaking favourite Black Cat Back down in the latter stages to score his biggest career victory in style.

The consistent gelding was easy to back at 11-2 as he became the first KZN-based galloper since Muis Roberts' Mike's Choice in 2012 to win this prestigious sprint, sponsored for the past 30 years by the popular local rag.

Keagan De Melo, who rode a double on the evening, produced Sniper Shot late to win going away by a half length in a time of 71.36 sec.

Bred by Birch Bros, the winner is a son of Varsfontein resident Judpot (A P Indy) out of the three-time winner Seven Veils (Rich Man's Gold).

Lynton Ryan selected Sniper Shot at the 2016 KZN Sibaya Yearling Sale, where Paul Lafferty signed the cheque at R140 000.

Sniper Shot races in the interests of his trainer and good friends, Louis van Wyk and Investec Director, Mark Currie.

He has won 4 races with 8 places from 16 starts for stakes of R879 625.

Sniper Shot is bred on the same Judpot-Rich Man's Gold cross as 2018 Highveld Horse Of The Season – as well the as Champion Middle Distance Horse and Champion Older Male – Coral Fever.

Judpot will be represented by a trio of yearling fillies (#6, #139 & #233) at next month's KZN Yearling Sale.

### Gr2 Post Merchants 1200m

Winner Sniper Shot was positioned joint 7th entering the straight 4 lengths behind the runner up; ran on strongly to lead close home Runner-up Black Cat Back set the pace; piped late Third Wynkelder (2nd best handicapped) was slow into stride; raced joint 7th entering the straight; ran on

**Time:** The time was a decent one. We gave the runner-up (prev 99/89/97/97/95) 99 which makes the winner (prev 85/90/96/98/98) 101 and the third (prev 84/84/93/97/81) 93

101	<b>1</b>	0.00	<b>SNIPER SHOT</b>	(9)	56.0	K De Melo	113/20
3 ch g Judpot - Seven Veils (Rich Man's Gold)							
99	<b>2</b>	0.50	<b>BLACK CAT BACK</b>	(3)	56.0	W Kennedy	71/20
4 ch g Black Minnaloushe - National Celebrity (National Assembly)							
93	<b>3</b>	1.00	<b>WYNKELDER</b>	(8)	54.0	M Ntuli	11/1
4 ch g Kahal - Al Vino (Al Mufti)							
95	<b>4</b>	1.50	Pure Blonde	(7)	56.0	R Simons	12/1
84	<b>5</b>	3.00	Too Phat To Fly	(13)	53.5	ES Ngwane	22/1
79	<b>6</b>	3.50	Mombela	(5)	52.0	DS Lerbethe	18/1
82	<b>7</b>	4.00	Wonderwall	(4)	54.0	L Hewitson	9/1
79	<b>8</b>	4.75	Rock Of Africa	(10)	54.0	M Byleveld	36/1
92	<b>9</b>	4.90	Attenborough	(6)	60.0	R Fourie	27/4
83	<b>10</b>	6.15	Our Mate Art	(2)	58.0	C Murray	36/1
59	<b>11</b>	7.90	Hois The Mast	(12)	50.0	S Moodley	45/1
82	<b>12</b>	8.90	Bishop's Bounty	(11)	62.0	B Lerna	18/1
17	<b>13</b>	26.90	Legislate	(1)	62.0	B Fayd'herbe	5/1
<b>Time:</b> 71.36s (59.47s avg/1000m, or 61km/h) <b>SP Total %:</b> 115%							
1st <b>T:</b> PV Lafferty <b>O:</b> Messrs L C W Van Wyk, M A Currie & P V Lafferty							
<b>B:</b> Birch Bros							

## Colin Bird's Gr1 Joy!

With the anticipated return clash of dual SA Horse Of The Year Legal Eagle and champion mare Nother Russia failing to materialise at Turffontein on Saturday, it was Robbie Sage's Vodacom Durban July entry Coral Fever who came of age to register a big win in the R4 million Gr1 The Premier's Champions Challenge.

The progress that Coral Fever has made is particularly rewarding as the veteran trainer nursed him back from a career threatening spiral fracture early on.

Winning Form-sponsored Muzi Yeni knows Coral Fever well and had him settled near the rear as Legal Eagle carted the field along under replacement rider S'Manga Khumalo.

At the top of the straight Legal Eagle continued to gallop strongly, as Nother Russia and Abashiri made forward moves, with the Kotzen mare Silvan Star weaving her way through down at the rail.

Coral Fever and Triple Crown winner Abashiri came together at the 300m marker as Legal Eagle faded out and it was left to the pair to fight things out.

With Abashiri running a vastly improved race, Muzi Yeni rode confidently to get Coral Fever to rally and he went on to grab the big cheque by 0,25 lengths in a time of 122,15 secs.

Mike and Adam Azzie will be heartened by Abashiri's improved run, while Cape visitor Silvan Star ran another excellent race to run into third.

Legal Eagle ran 8 lengths downfield in a very rare flat performance.

A R130 000 National Yearling Sale graduate, the Ascot Stud-bred Coral Fever races for Colin Bird and Sylvia Vrska and is a son of Judpot (AP Indy) out of the two-time winner, Coral Tree (Rich Man's Gold).

Coral Fever has now won 6 races with 7 places from 20 starts for stakes of R3 545 650.

### Gr1 Premier's Champions Challenge 2000m

Winner Coral Fever raced 10th; ran on strongly to lead 180m Runner up Abashiri (2nd best handicapped) was slow into stride; raced 7th; ran on with winner and challenged strongly; beaten 0,25 lengths

Third Silvan Star raced second last; ran on; beaten 4 lengths

**Time:** Legal Eagle set off at a brisk pace and kept it up for most of the journey. As a result the time was a good one

We gave the runner up (prev 100/106/102/100/98) 104 which makes the winner (prev 92/99/97/103/102) 106 and the third (prev 98/92/93/100/98) 91

106	<b>1</b>	0.00	<b>CORAL FEVER</b>	(7)	59.0	M Yeni	71/10
5 ch g Judpot - Coral Tree (Rich Man's Gold)							
104	<b>2</b>	0.25	<b>ABASHIRI</b>	(5)	58.0	C Orrfer	11/1
5 b g Go Deputy - Donya (Elliodor)							
91	<b>3</b>	4.00	<b>SILVAN STAR</b>	(10)	55.5	R Fourie	10/1
5 b m Silvano - Bold Choice (Lecture)							
93	<b>4</b>	5.25	Nother Russia	(6)	57.5	C Zackey	71/20
86	<b>5</b>	6.35	Safe Harbour	(2)	55.5	L Hewitson	10/1
95	<b>6</b>	7.15	Deo Juvente	(8)	60.0	C Murray	18/1
89	<b>7</b>	7.85	Dawn Assault	(3)	58.0	M v Rensburg	30/1
93	<b>8</b>	8.10	Legal Eagle	(4)	60.0	S Khumalo	47/20
88	<b>9</b>	8.35	French Navy	(11)	58.0	R Danielson	36/1
80	<b>10</b>	12.85	Glider Pilot	(9)	58.0	K Zechner	20/1
76	<b>11</b>	13.10	Fort Ember	(13)	56.5	K De Melo	22/1
53	<b>12</b>	28.10	Brazuca	(12)	59.0	B Fayd'herbe	45/1
41	<b>13</b>	32.50	Orchid Island	(1)	57.5	A Domeyer	36/1
<b>Time:</b> 122.15s (61.08s avg/1000m, or 59km/h) <b>SP Total %:</b> 116%							
1st <b>T:</b> RR Sage <b>O:</b> Ms Sylvia Vrska & Mr Colin Bird <b>B:</b> Ascot Stud							

## Muzi's Got The Fever

The Judpot gelding Coral Fever produced the peak run of his career at Turffontein on Saturday as he stormed home to win the R400 000 Gr2 Colorado King Stakes and take his career earnings over the R1 million mark.

Muzi Yeni is riding with renewed vigour and the hard-working jockey earned every cent of his riding fee, with Coral Fever lugging in and proving a difficult ride at the business end.

The joint top-rated feature of the afternoon only hosted nine runners and many observers felt that 2016 SA Triple Crown winner Abashiri had found the perfect opportunity to get back into the winner's enclosure after a close on two year dry spell.

But after an ominous betting drift, it was not to be.

Keagan de Melo had Fort Ember leading the pack ahead of Finchatton and Girl On The Run, as Abashiri coasted along in fourth.

Into the run for home, Orffer was keen to up the gallop and he brought Abashiri up to challenge as Fort Ember galloped relentlessly.

Coral Fever, who had been near last for most of the race, started making up solid ground down the outside but as the 5yo neared the front at the 250m marker, he lugged out – thanfully not causing any interference.

With Fort Ember staying on and Social Order picking them off late, Coral Fever stayed on best to win by 1,25 lengths in a time of 124,58 secs.

Fort Ember stayed on well after attempting to dictate matters and was a half-length ahead of Social Order, who ran a cracker just six days after winning the Kings Cup at Greyville.

Abashiri looks to be a shadow of his former self. Given every chance by Corne Orffer, he was the first to come under pressure and ran a one-paced 2.20 lengths off the winner.

A R130 000 National Yearling Sale graduate, the Ascot Stud-bred Coral Fever is a son of Judpot (AP Indy) out of the two-time winner, Coral Tree (Rich Man's Gold).

A winner of 5 races with 7 places from 19 starts for stakes of R1 046 650, Coral Fever could now headed to the R4 million Gr1 President's Champions Challenge at Turffontein on 5 May.

### Gr2 Colorado King Stakes 2000m

Winner Coral Fever raced at the back; 7th at 400m; hanging; led 110m; won going away

Runner-up Fort Ember (3rd best handicapped) set the pace; kept on well but no chance with winner

Third Social Order raced second last; was at the back at the 400m; didn't find the clearest of passages between the 400m-200m; ran on

**Time:** Although comfortably the fastest of the afternoon's three 2000m feature races, and the most honest in terms of pace, this should have been run a bit faster. We gave the runner-up (prev 100/96/101/89/97) 97 which makes the winner (prev 93/92/99/97/103) 102, and the third (prev 96/89/89/96/96) 99

102	1	0.00	<b>CORAL FEVER</b>	(6)	60.0	M Yeni	9/2
5 ch g Judpot - Coral Tree (Rich Man's Gold)							
97	2	1.25	<b>FORT EMBER</b>	(9)	58.5	K De Melo	9/2
5 b m Elusive Fort - Glowing Ember (Kahal)							
99	3	1.75	<b>SOCIAL ORDER</b>	(4)	60.0	C Zackey	8/1
4 b g Count Dubois - Dancette (Dancing Duel)							
95	4	2.00	Wind Chill	(3)	58.5	P Strydom	6/1
98	5	2.20	Abashiri	(7)	60.0	C Orffer	6/1
90	6	3.50	Girl On The Run	(2)	57.5	R Simons	147/20
86	7	5.50	Tambalang	(1)	57.5	L Hewitson	8/1
91	8	6.25	Finchatton	(8)	60.0	G Wrogemann	50/1
88	9	7.55	French Navy	(5)	60.0	R Danielson	31/4
<b>Time:</b> 124.58s (62.29s avg/1000m, or 58km/h) <b>SP Total %:</b> 113%							
1st <b>T:</b> RR Sage <b>O:</b> Ms Sylvia Vrska & Mr Colin Bird <b>B:</b> Ascot Stud							