

Poor House

Despite looking to have a bit to do at the weights, Dennis Drier's 6yo Wealthy charged home from miles off the gallop at any price to win the R150 000 Listed Michael Roberts Handicap at Scottville on Sunday.

After Hero Quest had led for much of the journey, Affranchi moved up looking dangerous. But the action was near the rear of the field and it was Wealthy who finished best to hold off the late run of Dark Moon Rising, who had been pacing it with him at the back of the field.

Wealthy kept going by 0,75 lengths to win in a time of 103,49 secs with Affranchi a further 0,75 lengths away in third.

Amor Ardiente rounded off a R13 200 quartet with Pietro Mascagni failing to fire and running a 3,15 length fifth.

A past KZN 2000 Winter Challenge winner, Wealthy was bred by KL Thomas and is a son of Silvano (Lomitas) out of the five time winner Wealth (Badger Land).

A R180 000 National 2yo Sale graduate, Wealthy has won 6 races with 8 places from 28 starts for stakes of R589 050.

Michael Roberts Handicap (L) 1750m

Winner Wealthy raced at the back entering the home straight; ran on well to lead 130m

Runner-up Dark Moon Rising raced second to last entering the

straight; ran on particularly strongly in the closing stages

Third Affranchi raced 2nd; led 250m; outrun latter stages

Time: Comparatively the fastest of the three races around the turn, the pace looked a fair one throughout. We gave the runner-up (prev 85/87/99/95/96) 96 which makes the winner (prev 57/73/78/74 – has done 83) 82 and the third (prev 84/84/71/61/77) 84

82	1	0.00	WEALTHY	(10)	53.0	S Veale	22/1
6 b g Silvano - Wealth (Badger Land)							
96	2	0.75	DARK MOON RISING	(2)	60.0	C Zackey	10/1
5 b g Ideal World - Full Moon Rising (Second Empire)							
84	3	1.50	AFFRANCHI	(8)	52.0	L J Ferraris	22/1
3 b g Elusive Fort - Tropical Dance(ARQ) (Luhuk)							
75	4	2.75	Amor Ardiente	(7)	52.5	M Yeni	25/4
81	5	3.15	Pietro Mascagni	(1)	55.5	A Marcus	5/8
78	6	3.30	Dawn Calling	(3)	54.5	M Khan	16/1
74	7	4.40	Sir Bernadini	(9)	53.5	G Wright	22/1
79	8	4.80	Hero Quest	(6)	56.0	K De Melo	25/1
73	9	5.30	Blackball	(11)	54.0	W Kennedy	18/1
65	10	7.10	Techno Captain	(4)	52.0	A Arries	66/1
56	11	15.00	Nicklaus	(5)	55.5	S Moodley	66/1

Time: 103.49s (59.14s avg/1000m, or 61km/h) SP Total %: 115%

1st T:DR Drier O:Messrs A N Dickinson, P B Gibson, D D Hayman, M A Nel, S Singleton & Mrs G M Drier B:KL Thomas

So Close!

After winning his first two starts with authority, Mike de Kock's exciting Silvano colt Hawwaam was called on for the first time to show some fight when winning Sunday's R250 000 Gr3 Tony Ruffel Stakes.

A popular odds-on favourite and everybody's Pick 6 and Jackpot banker, Dingaans winner Hawwaam completed a Gr3 feature double on the day for Mike de Kock and Gavin Lerena, but it wasn't walk in the park stuff, as most of us anticipated for L'Ormarins Queen's Plate third-placer Rainbow Bridge's half-brother.

KZN raider Stream Ahead under Warren Kennedy was four lengths clear as they turned for home in the 1400m contest.

After racing awkwardly and not settling early on, Hawwaam was some ten lengths off the chasing group led by Inexhaustible and Rocky Night.

Paul Peter's longshot Inexhaustible took it up at the 300m, with Hawwaam appearing to be swooping for the kill and under no pressure.

This is when Gavin Lerena's body language told a different as Inexhaustible wasn't coming back to him and the pressure was suddenly on.

After being reminded of his task, Hawwaam found his stride and he got there by a neck in a time of 85,49 secs.

It was not the way a 1-4 is expected to beat a 44-1 but the experience should stand Hawwaam in good stead as he goes into the Highveld season with big things expected.

Unbeaten in three starts, Hawwaam has now grossed R528 125 and looks well on his way to recouping his R1 million National Yearling Sale price tag.

Bred by Mauritzfontein & Wilgerbosdrift, he is a son of multiple champion Silvano (Lomitas) out of the seven-time winner, Half-way To Heaven (Jet Master).

Gr3 Tony Ruffel Stakes (3yo's) 1400m

Winner Hawwaam (2nd best handicapped) raced 5th; led 150m; kept on strongly

Runner-up Inexhaustible raced 2nd; led 300m; kept on strongly after being headed 150m out

Third Vontreo raced 7th; was 1.5 lengths behind the eventual winner entering the straight; ran on strongly; shifted in away from the crop latter stages

Time: A very false run race. After a sedate start the field became very strung out before bunching up (3 lengths covered all) for a sprint 400m out. Only the two maiden plates amongst the five 1400m races were run slower. We gave the 6th (prev best 85) 80 which makes the winner (prev 93/98) 93, the runner-up (prev 63/75/75/57/81) 88 and the third (prev 72/80) 87

93	1	0.00	HAWWAAM	(7)	60.0	G Lerena	1/4
3 b c Silvano - Halfway To Heaven (Jet Master)							
88	2	0.20	INEXHAUSTIBLE	(3)	58.0	L J Ferraris	44/1
3 b c Querari - La Garita (Lateral)							
87	3	0.70	VONTREO	(2)	58.0	M Yeni 16/1	
3 b g Mambo In Seattle - Captain's Lullaby (Captain Al)							
84	4	1.40	Celtic Sea	(5)	57.5	L Hewitson	10/1
84	5	1.80	Rocky Night	(6)	58.0	P Strydom	50/1
80	6	3.00	Stream Ahead	(8)	58.0	W Kennedy	28/1
73	7	5.30	Monopolize	(1)	58.0	D Schwarz	50/1
70	8	6.20	Reach For The Line	(4)	58.0	R Munger	9/1

Time: 85.49s (61.06s avg/1000m, or 59km/h) SP Total %: 115%

1st T:MF de Kock O:Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid al Maktoum B:Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein

Snaith Draws First Blood

With over fifty horses running at Kenilworth this weekend, Justin Snaith still found some time to travel the 2000km round trip on Wednesday to Fairview to grab the first feature trophy of 2019.

With three runners on the day, the Snaith Racing Team may have expected more than a winner – but they left the Eastern Cape with mission accomplished thanks to a facile first stakes success for the Silvano filly, Platinum Class, who gave Richard Fourie an armchair ride.

The local star Madame Speaker was having her first outing in mixed age company and carried bottomweight in the R150 000 Listed Lady's Bracelet. She also started a narrow tote favourite in the field of nine.

But it was no race.

Valentine's Girl led Cloud Atlas and Maverick Girl, with Madame Speaker relaxed in fourth for much of the journey. The well fancied Platinum Class was dropped out to last by Richard Fourie.

Into the final 300m Madame Speaker moved up dangerously but was no match for the flying Platinum Class who strode up on the outside to win going away by 2 lengths in a time of 96,59 secs.

Just My Style came on late for third, a further 1,25 lengths adrift, with former Kimberley campaigner Sea Bean a well beaten fourth.

A R210 000 National Yearling Sale buy, the winner, who races for Drakenstein Stud, was bred by Mauritzfontein and Wilgerbosdrift and is a daughter of the super sire Silvano (Lomitas) out of the four-time winner Express Queen (Jet Master) – who also produced last season's Mauritius Champion Stayer, Our Emperor (Dynasty).

Platinum Class has won 5 races with 5 places from 15 starts for stakes of R372 000.

Lady's Bracelet (F&M) (Listed) 1600m

Winner Platinum Class (best handicapped) raced in the rear; led 200m; won going away

Runner-up Madame Speaker (2nd best handicapped) raced 4th; led 350m; no chance with winner

Third Just My Style raced 5th; stayed on, but well beaten

Time: Run in a time 1,73 seconds (approximately 9 lengths) faster than the quickest of the other two 1600m events, this comparatively was the fastest race on the card.

We gave the runner-up (prev 79/81/87/85/90) 90 which makes the winner (prev 89/88/84/93 – has done 97) 96 and the third (prev 75/70/72/76 – has done 87) 89

91	1	0.00	PLATINUM CLASS	(4)	60.0	R Fourie	11/10
4 b f Silvano - Express Queen (Jet Master)							
85	2	2.00	MADAME SPEAKER	(9)	56.0	G Cheyne	2/1
3 b f Pathfork - Word Perfect (National Assembly)							
84	3	3.25	JUST MY STYLE	(1)	60.0	W Agrella	18/1
4 b f Irish Flame - Onawingandaprayer (Jet Master)							
80	4	5.25	Sea Bean	(5)	60.0	L Hewitson	15/1
76	5	7.00	Maverick Girl	(3)	60.0	R Munger	22/1
75	6	7.50	Sao Paulo	(6)	60.0	M Thackeray	13/1
73	7	8.25	Travel In Style	(2)	60.0	J Penny	28/1
68	8	10.50	Valentine's Girl	(7)	60.0	L Mxothwa	28/1
40	9	23.50	Cloud Atlas	(8)	60.0	M Yenni	22/1

Time: 96.59s (60.37s avg/1000m, or 60km/h) SP Total %: 115%

1st T.J Snaith O:Drakenstein Stud (Nom: Mrs G A Rupert)

B:Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein

Take On The World

Mike de Kock's Silvano colt Hawwaam staked his Cape Guineas claims in just over 97 seconds at Turffontein on Saturday when he charged clear to maintain his unbeaten record with an eye-catching victory in the R500 000 Gr2 Dingaans.

Jumping from a wide draw, the winner of South Africa's historic first 'no crop' race on Charity Mile day was last turning for home, and had the best part of ten lengths to make up at the 500m marker.

But after the KZN raider Thanksgiving had hit the front at the 350m looking very dangerous, Gavin Lerena unleashed Hawwaam and the son of Silvano simply lengthened his stride impressively to make up lengths to win going away and full of running by 3,40 lengths in a time of 97,63 secs.

It was a nice effort from the Duncan Howells-trained Thanksgiving who had run a half length second to Stream Ahead in the Listed KZN Guineas Trial at his last start.

Green Haze showed his Graham Beck Stakes run to be all wrong and turned the tables on National Park – finishing a further 1,80 lengths back in third.

The fancied Graham Beck stakes winner National Park tried to go all the way, but came under early pressure in the home straight and hung on for a modest 7,40 length fourth. He seems much better than this.

KZN challenger White Lightning was pulled up and finished an official 32,25 lengths off the winner. The stipes report may tell us more.

Bred by Wilgerbosdrift and Mauritzfontein, Hawwaam was a R1 million National Yearling Sale graduate for Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid al Maktoum.

A son of multiple champion sire Silvano (Lomitas), he is a half-brother to Cape-based unbeaten Ideal World stakes winner Rainbow Bridge.

These two extremely smart males are out of the very versatile seven-time winner Halfway To Heaven (Jet Master), whose successes included the 2013 Gr3 Prix Du Cap. She was trained initially by Eric Sands and after changing hands, by Mike de Kock, during her racing career.

Halfway To Heaven is out of Pas De Basque, a somewhat light on pedigree Rambo Dancer mare that stood at Ingrid Klug's Wynnholme Stud until her passing from a heart issue two years ago – she left behind a filly by Duke Of Marmalade.

Gr2 Dingaans (3yo's) 1600m

Winner Hawwaam (2nd best handicapped) was drawn wide; raced well back in the field, 14th of 15; ran on strongly to lead 150m; won going away Runner-up Thanksgiving raced 8th entering the home straight; led 260m; no chance with winner

Third Green Haze raced 10th entering the home straight; stayed on, but well beaten

Time: By far the faster of the two 1600m feature events, the pace looked a fair one. We gave the 5th horse 81 which makes the winner (prev 93) 98, the runner-up (prev 67/73/79/84) 91, and the third (prev 82/85/85/79/60) 87

90	1	0.00	ANIME	(1)	54.0	S Veale	9/1
98	1	0.00	HAWWAAM	(13)	60.0	G Lerena	24/10
3 b c Silvano - Halfway To Heaven (Jet Master)							
91	2	3.40	THANKSGIVING	(7)	60.0	M Khan	15/1
3 b c Dynasty - Torrential Rain (Al Mufti)							
87	3	5.20	GREEN HAZE	(1)	60.0	R Danielson	22/1
3 b c Gimmetheregreenlight - Mizzen Mist (Western Winter)							
82	4	7.40	National Park	(9)	60.0	R Munger	18/10
81	5	7.90	Roll Of Drums	(6)	60.0	C Habib	22/1
78	6	9.40	In Cahoots	(12)	60.0	C Maujean	50/1
74	7	11.30	Perfect Peter	(10)	60.0	W Kennedy	18/1
73	8	11.50	Gift For The Gap	(14)	60.0	S Brown	50/1
72	9	12.00	Samurai Warrior	(15)	60.0	Wei Marwing	22/1
72	10	12.10	Atyaab	(4)	60.0	D De Gouveia	25/1
71	11	12.50	Reach For The Line	(2)	60.0	L J Ferraris	17/2
67	12	14.25	Silken Prince	(8)	60.0	K Zechner	100/1
67	13	14.45	Bien Venue	(5)	60.0	L Hewitson	30/1
63	14	15.95	My Boi Caloi	(11)	60.0	M v Rensburg	100/1
28	15	32.25	White Lightning	(3)	60.0	P Strydom	20/1

Time: 97.63s (61.02s avg/1000m, or 59km/h) SP Total %: 118%

1st T:MF de Kock O:Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid al Maktoum

B:Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein

Lerena Fires!

Gavin Lerena rounded off a Charity Mile feature double when timing his run to perfection on the Silvano mare Sylvan On Fire in the R250 000 Gr3 Yellowwood Handicap.

Lerena has been in prime form since returning from an extended injury break last month and maintained his win strike-rate at a healthy 23% on a tough day at the office for punters. With R2,4 million carried over in the Pick 6, the form book was lying in tatters as the sun set on Turffontein.

He had Sylvan On Fire relaxed from her wide draw as Being Fabulous and Insignis looked dangerous in the dash for home.

With Sylvan On Fire struggling to kick, Lerena was seen at his best as he built his mount up and kept her balanced as Being Fabulous became tight between the eventual winner and the consistent Insignis.

With a perfectly time run, Sylvan On Fire maintained her effort to the line to withstand an eye-catching late effort from Cold Cash by a quarter length in a time of 110,25 secs.

Trained by Candice Dawson, Sylvan On Fire races in the pink and white flag of her breeder Vanessa Harrison.

She is a daughter of Silvano (Lomitas) out of the four-time winner Jet Flyer (Jet Master).

She has won 5 races with 4 places from 12 starts and stakes of R502 875.

Gr3 Yellowwood Handicap 1800m

Winner Sylvan On Fire (best handicapped 8/1) was drawn wide; raced 10th entering the straight; hanging; led 200m; kept on strongly
 Runner-up Cold Cash raced 13th of the fourteen; ran on strongly; gaining at finish

Third Being Fabulous raced 5th; led 400m; no chance with first two

Time: One of the slower of the nine around the turn, and possibly not a true run race. We gave the third (prev 83/73/84/86/87) 87, which makes the winner (prev 96/79/69/82/88) 93, and the runner-up (prev 76/80/77/77 - has done 83) 83

93	1	0.00	SYLVAN ON FIRE	(13)	56.0	G Lerena	31/4
5 ch m Silvano - Jet Flyer (Jet Master)							
83	2	0.25	COLD CASH	(4)	52.0	D Schwarz	20/1
6 ch m Bankable - Frost Fairy (Linney Head)							
87	3	1.65	BEING FABULOUS	(2)	55.0	W Kennedy	8/1
5 b m High Chaparral - Dashing Eagle(AUS) (Danehill)							
83	4	2.15	Insignis	(5)	53.5	M v Rensburg	5/1
88	5	2.85	Jet Start	(14)	56.5	L J Ferraris	18/1
86	6	3.15	Cashel Palace	(1)	56.0	R Danielson	11/1
75	7	4.25	Braxton	(10)	52.0	R Munger	28/1
93	8	5.00	Fort Ember	(8)	60.5	C Herrera Gomez	15/4
67	9	8.25	Gottalottaluv	(7)	52.0	M Thackeray	44/1
68	10	10.25	Royal Utopia	(11)	54.0	C Zackey	22/1
60	11	11.65	Chariot Of Gold	(3)	52.0	L Hewitson	113/20
60	12	11.95	La Linea	(6)	52.0	M Yeni	22/1
37	13	23.95	Shelly	(12)	52.5	C Habib	28/1
35	14	24.35	Mar Del Sur	(9)	52.0	K De Melo	36/1

Time: 110.25s (61.25s avg/1000m, or 59km/h) SP Total %: 114%

1st T.C Dawson O:Mrs Vanessa Harrison B:V Harrison

Black Type!

It was mission accomplished and black type on the board for the Justin Snaith-trained Silvano mare Konkola when she stormed to victory in the R150 000 Listed Jockey Club Stakes at Fairview on Friday.

The newly crowned SA Champion, Justin Snaith ran first and second, with the Cape raiders rounding off the trifecta with Joey Ramsden's Fresnaye running third.

This was the first stakes feature of the new SA racing season.

"She's already on the float to stud. That was very satisfying that we could get the paddock-boosting credit in the book for the owners. She's a lovely well-bred mare and we look forward to following her," said Snaith Racing spokesman Jono Snaith after the Daytona bred galloper had mowed down her opposition for an easy victory in the hands of the rampant Richard Fourie.

The official margin was 2,75 lengths and the winner clocked 125,62 secs for the 2000m.

Year younger stablemate Esteemal ran a smart race to maintain her consistent form with a second cheque. She will transfer to Tara Laing for the rest of the season and should pay to follow.

The 14-10 favourite Fresnaye plodded into third.

Local consistent soldier Beataboutthebush ran a rare poor race and finished close on 15 lengths downfield.

A R400 000 National Yearling Sale graduate, the winner was bred by Daytona Stud and is by super-sire Silvano (Lomitas) out of the four-time winner, Mkushi Gold (Western Winter).

She is a full-sister to recent Gr2 Gold Bracelet victress Miyabi Gold and a half to the well-performed Consolation July winner, Ultimate Dollar. The family all raced in the pink, green and white Jonsson silks.

Jockey Club Stakes (F&M) (L) 2000m

Winner Konkola raced 7th; led 100m; won going away

Runner-up Esteemal set the pace; kept on strongly, but no chance with winner

Third Fresnaye raced 6th; level with winner entering home straight; ran on - jockey reported something amiss with Fresnaye in running, and the vet reported post-race distress syndrome for this filly

Time: Although this was marginally the fastest of the three races over 2000m, there was no pace at all early on and the race developed into a sprint over the final 500m. Result and ratings are best treated with caution for that reason. We gave the fifth 83, which makes the winner (prev 75/78/83/83/88) 92, the runner-up (prev 73/71/81/72/77) 87 and the third (prev 77/74/92/90/92) 88

92	1	0.00	KONKOLA	(1)	59.0	R Fourie	113/20
5 b m Silvano - Mkushi Gold (Western Winter)							
87	2	2.75	ESTEEMAL	(15)	58.0	C Zackey	22/1
4 b f Captain Al - Esprit (Fort Wood)							
88	3	3.50	FRESNAYE	(10)	59.0	B Fayd'herbe	14/10
4 b f Western Winter - Gulf Breeze(GB) (Dubai Destination)							
86	4	4.50	Raven Girl	(8)	59.0	C Maujean	28/1
83	5	5.00	Peach Delight	(12)	59.0	W Kennedy	55/1
81	6	6.00	Tiffindell	(3)	59.0	R Khathi	36/1
78	7	7.25	Patchit Up Baby	(13)	59.0	M Yeni	14/1
77	8	9.00	Widow's Lamp	(14)	59.0	R Munger	16/1
73	9	10.25	Smokey Affair	(11)	59.0	L Mxothwa	15/1
72	10	10.75	Christmas Carol	(2)	59.0	X Ndlovu	66/1
68	11	13.00	Lucky Lulu	(6)	59.0	S Fortune	22/1
66	12	14.00	So Enchanting	(4)	59.0	T Gould	66/1
66	13	14.75	Beataboutthebush	(7)	60.0	A Domeyer	5/1
58	14	18.00	Gitango Tonight	(9)	58.0	K Zechner	66/1
60	15	18.10	Queen Forever	(5)	59.0	M Byleveld	22/1

Time: 125.62s (62.81s avg/1000m, or 57km/h) SP Total %: 118%

1st T.J Snaith O:Evanstan Investments (Pty) Ltd (Nom: Mr R D Hamilton) & Mr N Jonsson B:Daytona Stud

Bracelet Thriller

Justin Snaith crowned his second SA championship title with a superb Gr2 exacta at Greyville on Saturday as the progressive Silvano filly Miyabi Gold shaded her year older stablemate Gimme Six in a thrilling finish to the R400 000 Gold Bracelet.

After the highs of Vodacom Durban July day, the Snaith Racing Team were happy to break open the champagne on what was to be a superb end to a memorable year.

Mark Khan, riding with the enthusiasm of a man twenty years his junior, rode a peach of a race as Richard Fourie found himself a reluctant leader on Elusive Heart.

Khan made his moves at all the right moments and rode a cracker in what must be his first winner on Super Saturday in over a decade.

Miyabi Gold was the junior in the twelve-strong line-up and having only her sixth start, she showed great courage to deny her older stablemate Gimme Six a winning swansong.

In a thriller, Khan kept Miyabi Gold gunning to hold off Gimme Six by a nose in a time of 127,38 secs.

Miyabi Gold was bred by Daytona Stud.

A daughter of champion sire Silvano (Lomitas) she is out of the four-time winner Mkushi Gold (Western Winter) and is thus a half sister to 2015 Consolation July winner Ultimate Dollar (Jet Master) who ran in the familiar Jonsson silks, also out of the Snaith stable.

Miyabi Gold has won 3 races with 1 place from 6 starts and stakes of R420 000.

Gr2 Gold Bracelet 2000m (turf)

Winner Miyabi Gold raced 2nd; led 200m

Runner-up Gimme Six; raced 8th; 4 lengths behind the winner entering the straight; ran on strongly; beaten a short head

Third Epona raced 3rd; ran on; beaten a neck

Time: There was no real pace at all early on, and very slowly run, the race developed into a sprint finish. Not a result and ratings to rely on.

We gave the runner-up (prev 97/88/93/96/97) 97, which makes the winner (prev 54/73/58/81/92) 95 and the third (prev 88/72/94/81/78) 94

95	1	0.00	MIYABI GOLD	(10)	57.0	M Khan	5/1
3 b f Silvano - Mkushi Gold (Western Winter)							
97	2	0.05	GIMME SIX	(8)	60.0	B Fayd'herbe	10/3
4 b f Gimmethegreenlight - District Six(IRE) (Mujadil)							
94	3	0.15	EPONA	(3)	58.5	C Zackey	36/1
4 b f Silvano - Laptop Lady (Al Mufti)							
94	4	0.40	Meryl	(2)	57.0	K De Melo	5/1
93	5	0.65	Girl On The Run	(1)	58.5	R Danielson	8/1
93	6	0.90	Roy's Riviera	(6)	57.0	W Kennedy	13/1
92	7	1.40	Elusive Heart	(12)	57.0	R Fourie	113/20
93	8	2.40	Sabina's Dynasty	(11)	60.0	P Strydom	10/1
88	9	3.15	Bi Pot	(4)	58.5	M v Rensburg	16/1
88	10	3.30	Simply Royal	(9)	58.5	D Schwarz	22/1
84	11	5.30	Intergalactic	(7)	58.5	A Arries	55/1
82	12	6.30	Heaps of Fun	(5)	58.5	S Khumalo	28/1

Time: 127.38s (63.69s avg/1000m, or 57km/h) SP Total %: 117%

1st T:J Snaith O:Evanstan Investments (Pty) Ltd (Nom: Mr R D Hamilton)
& Mr N Jonsson B:Daytona Stud

Golden Touch

Trainer Tara Laing maintained her vice grip on South Africa's longest race when she made it five victories in six renewals of the R150 000 Listed Port Elizabeth Gold Cup at Fairview on Friday.

Trying the 3600m trip for the first time, her 4yo Silvano gelding Plano showed a nice turn of foot when he came from last into the straight to withstand a game late challenge from the consistent Frikkie to win smartly by a half length in a time of 233,40 secs.

In a contest where the pacemaking duties were shared by stablemates Don't Let Me Down and Desert Wisdom, Hong Kong-bound Callan Murray rode a patient race. He sat dead still as Plano loped along at the rear as Desert Wisdom took it up at the 2000m marker to lead Don't Let Me Down and the recent maiden winning filly, Zanadu.

In the run for home, Desert Wisdom plugged away as Zanadu came forward to challenge with Frikkie producing his challenge.

But it was the 9-2 shot Plano who had most in reserve and the gallant gelding produced a good effort to hold the tote favourite Frikkie.

The long formless Chappaquiddick ran a better race to bank the R15 000 third cheque a further half length back, with Mike Stewart's filly Zanadu paying the petrol for her return trip to Noordhoek by staying on for fourth.

Bred by Maine Chance Farms, Plano is a son of Silvano (Lomitas) out of the four-time winning sprinter Paramo (Western Winter).

A graduate of the 2015 Cape Premier Yearling Sale, where Mayfair Speculators bought him for R1 million, Plano has won 4 races with 10 places from 18 starts for stakes of R322 975.

Port Elizabeth Gold Cup (L) 3600m

Winner Plano (2nd best handicapped) raced at the back; positioned 6th entering the home straight; ran on; hanging in from 300m; led 200m

Runner-up Frikkie (3rd best handicapped) raced 3rd early; 5th entering home straight; challenged strongly final 100m

Third Chappaquiddick was slow into stride; raced 5th; 3rd entering home straight; beaten 1 length

Time: Run at a good pace for a race over ground, the time on the day was a good one. We gave the runner-up (prev 75/77/61/67/77) 79 which makes the winner (prev 71/64/80/80/73) 80 and the third (prev 66/65/56/37/64) 83

80	1	0.00	PLANO	(8)	57.5	C Murray	9/2
4 b g Silvano - Paramo (Western Winter)							
79	2	0.50	FRIKKIE	(1)	57.5	L Hewitson	2/1
6 b h Elusive Fort - Little Fox (Russian Fox)							
83	3	1.00	CHAPPAQUIDDICK	(6)	55.0	M Yeni	28/1
3 b c Mullins Bay - Aces Wild (Trippi)							
70	4	2.75	Zanadu	(7)	55.0	G Cheyne	9/2
65	5	6.00	Shady World	(3)	55.0	T Gould	22/1
76	6	6.05	The Elmo Effect	(2)	60.0	C Maujean	9/1
74	7	6.10	Desert Wisdom	(5)	59.0	M Thackeray	61/20
0	8	99.99	Don't Let Me Down	(4)	55.0	K Minnie	100/1

Time: 233.4s (64.83s avg/1000m, or 56km/h) SP Total %: 113%

1st T:T Laing O:Mr E A Braun B:Maine Chance

A Second Chance

Withdrawn on the eve of the 2017 Vodacom Durban July, Justin Snaith's Silvano gelding Elusive Silva showed that horseracing can sometimes deliver second chances.

The big chestnut bounded home relatively unfancied to win the R500 000 Gr2 WSB 1900 at Greyville on Saturday and set himself up for a run on 7 July.

The shock scratching of Glen Kotzen 3yo Pack Leader threw the WSB 1900 even wider open and with a preferential July consideration ticket up for grabs, there was plenty to play for, with ten of the twelve runners being entries for the R4,25 million spectacular.

From the worst of the draw, Bernard Fayd'herbe – who was also aboard Star Express – had Elusive Silva settled at the rear as Kampala Campari led Crowd Pleaser and Strathdon in the run for home.

Avoiding traffic, Bernard Fayd'herbe took Elusive Silva from the rail and switched him to the centre of the straight for his run.

With his long stride carrying him past the leaders, Elusive Silva had the race under control at the 200m and ran on powerfully to beat the consistent Dark Moon Rising by a half length in a time of 116,34 secs.

The top four are all July hopefuls and did their big race prospects no harm.

The 5yo was off the track for seven months after sustaining that July-bid ending injury in June last year. He was prepped in the Peninsula but the Sun Met may have come tooo quickly after that.

This was his second run after running a decent fifth behind Head Honcho in the Sledgehammer on 22 April.

A dual Gr3 winner previously, this was a career peak win and he took his tally to six victories with 3 places from 16 starts and stakes of R896 750.

A Cape Premier Yearling Sale R375 000 buy, he was bred by Nutfield Stud and is a son of champion Silvano (Lomitas) out of the one-time winner Esprit (Fort Wood).

Gr2 World Sports Betting 1900m

Winner Elusive Silva was drawn widest of the twelve; raced in the rear; positioned 8th turning for home; led 250m

Runner-up Dark Moon Rising raced in midfield; 9th entering the straight one length behind the winner; ran on

Third Matador Man (3rd best handicapped), usually a slow beginner, lost three lengths at the start; raced in the rear; 10th entering the straight, some 2 lengths behind the winner; baulked for a run 350m-200m

Time: Comparatively the fastest of the four turf races, and probably true-run. We gave the third (85/94/94/92 – has done 105) 94 which makes the winner (prev 90/96/90/84/90) 99 and the runner-up (prev 80/72/86/86/86) 90

99	1	0.00	ELUSIVE SILVA	(12)	60.0	B Fayd'herbe	11/1
5 ch g Silvano - Esprit (Fort Wood)							
90	2	0.50	DARK MOON RISING	(2)	56.0	C Zackey	71/10
4 b g Ideal World - Full Moon Rising (Second Empire)							
94	3	2.75	MATADOR MAN	(9)	60.0	L Hewitson	6/1
4 b g Toreador - Sahara (Mogok)							
90	4	2.80	Platinum Prince	(11)	58.0	G v Niekerk	6/1
84	5	3.30	Ollivander	(4)	56.0	S Randolph	30/1
92	6	3.80	It's My Turn	(6)	60.0	K De Melo	5/1
90	7	5.05	The Slade	(8)	60.0	W Kennedy	6/1
89	8	5.30	Crowd Pleaser	(7)	60.0	M Khan	12/1
84	9	5.80	Captain Splendid	(5)	58.0	A Mgudiwa	55/1
83	10	6.30	Kampala Campari	(1)	58.0	C Orrifer	12/1
78	11	6.55	Strathdon	(10)	56.0	G Cheyne	22/1
74	12	10.55	Fort Ember	(3)	57.5	G Wrogemann	71/10

Time: 116.34s (61.23s avg/1000m, or 59km/h) SP Total %: 117%

1st T.J Snaith O: Messrs E G Bouwer, E A Braun, P S Loomes, Jonathan Snaith & K P Truter & Mrs Jane Truter B: Nutfield Stud

Golden Form

Lyle Hewitson and Sean Tarry were in the feature pound seats again at Turffontein on Saturday with a great feature double.

First up for the combo was a progressive Silvano filly who went all the way to win the R150 000 Listed Oaks Trial.

In testing conditions over the 2000m, the talented Hewitson overcame a wide draw and took the lightly-raced Chariot Of Gold up to lead. Despite challengers from all sides in the home straight, Hewitson kept pushing and Chariot Of Gold kept giving more all the way to the wire – suggesting that she could be a serious contender in the Oaks.

Chariot Of Gold never looked like getting beaten and held on powerfully to score by 1,75 lengths in a time of 125,26 secs.

It was a Silvano 1-2 with Stan Ferreira's Our Shining Star staving off a drive from African Dynasty in second.

A R1 million 2016 Emperors Palace Select Yearling Sale graduate, the Klawervlei bred Chariot Of Gold is a daughter of Silvano (Lomitas) out of the seven-time winning Quest For Gold (Jallad).

The latter, whose seven wins included the Listed Spook Express Handicap, is a half-sister to exciting new Klawervlei sire and July winner Pomodoro and Gr2 Betting World 1900 winner Golden Chariot.

Chariot Of Gold has won 2 races from 5 starts for stakes of R161 750.

Oaks Trial (3yo fillies) (L) 2000m

Winner Chariot Of Gold set the pace; kept on strongly

Runner-up Our Shining Star raced 7th; was 8th and some 3 lengths behind the winner at 400m; ran on

Third African Dynasty raced 8th; 4th at 400m and about 2 lengths behind the winner

Time: This was the slowest of the three 2000m features; pace slowed rounding the turn towards the spur, before a sprint for home. Not a result to rely on for future. We gave the 5th horse 69 which makes the winner (prev 52/62/72/67) 79, the runner-up (prev 62/67/67/70/72) 78 and the third (prev 68/37/50/51/72) 72

79	1	0.00	CHARIOT OF GOLD	(14)	53.5	L Hewitson	14/1
3 b f Silvano - Quest For Gold (Jallad)							
78	2	1.75	OUR SHINING STAR	(8)	54.5	G Wrogemann	8/1
3 b f Silvano - Cosmic Jet (Jet Master)							
72	3	1.80	AFRICAN DYNASTY	(6)	52.0	W Kennedy	55/1
3 b f Dynasty - Sensational Secret (Camden Park)							
77	4	2.70	Gottalottaluv	(4)	55.0	P Strydom	5/1
69	5	4.00	Pretty Ballerina	(12)	52.5	R Fourie	16/1
83	6	5.00	Azkur	(1)	59.5	K De Melo	8/1
68	7	6.10	Pearl Of Bahrain	(3)	53.5	C Murray	31/4
72	8	7.00	Pale Lilac	(2)	56.5	R Simons	14/1
64	9	7.70	Redberry Wood	(10)	53.5	M v Rensburg	113/20
59	10	9.00	Glamorous Scandal	(7)	52.0	R Munger	28/1
61	11	10.25	Tigerlace	(16)	54.0	M Yeni	16/1
73	12	10.75	Pilgrim's Progress	(15)	60.0	G Larena	10/1
56	13	10.85	Empress Rock	(9)	52.5	K Zechner	15/1
52	14	12.85	Sailor Girl	(13)	52.5	C Zackey	30/1
49	15	14.05	Babe Paley	(5)	52.0	J Penny	66/1
37	16	22.55	Zargun	(11)	54.0	F Herholdt	30/1

Time: 125.64s (62.82s avg/1000m, or 57km/h) SP Total %: 119%

1st T:SG Tarry O: Messrs B Kantor, C J H van Niekerk & Sean Tarry Racing C.C. (Nominee : Mr S G Tarry) B: Klawervlei Stud

The Old Team

Grant van Niekerk and Justin Snaith teamed up at Fairview on Good Friday to win the R150 000 Listed East Cape Guineas in thrilling fashion with the fast-improving Silvano gelding Sabbatical flying late to grab victory from the jaws of certain defeat.

After Callan Murray had given his field the slip on the What A Winter filly What A Player at the 200m marker it looked to be race over as the Greeff filly stayed on powerfully.

But out of the blue, Grant van Niekerk had his head down and with Sabbatical taking off late with Kimberley Star, only a neck seperated the top three.

Described by racecaller Alistair Cohen as having shown himself to possess a 'bionic neck', Sabbatical changed legs twice inside the last 100m to gain an unlikely victory – with a determined stretch of the neck!

The official margin was a head in a time of 100,25 secs.

Owned by Fred Crabbia, Sabbatical was bred by Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein and is a son of champion sire Silvano (Lomitas) out of the four-time winner, Gap Year (Rich Man's Gold).

A R550 000 National Yearling Sale purchase, he has won 3 races with 1 place from 9 starts for stakes of R204 750.

Sabbatical also banked the BSA Added Value Bonus of R77 500.

East Cape Guineas (L) 1600m

Winner Sabbatical raced 7th; ran on strongly; got up in the dying strides

Runner-up What A Player raced 2nd; led 150m; piped last strides Third Kimberley Star (Karl Zechner replaced Aldo Domeyer) raced 4th; challenged strongly; narrowly beaten; made a respiratory noise in running

Time: This was the slowest of the four 1600m races. We gave the 3rd (prev 84/57/81/79/76) 84, which makes the winner (prev 77/66/55/74/76) 84, and the runner-up (prev 62/69/69/77/88) 79

84	1	0.00	SABBATICAL	(3)	60.0	G v Niekerk	6/1
3	b	g	Silvano - Gap Year (Rich Man's Gold)				
79	2	0.05	WHAT A PLAYER	(7)	57.5	C Murray	27/4
3	b	f	What A Winter - Shaan Madary (Darshaan)				
84	3	0.15	KIMBERLEY STAR	(6)	60.0	K Zechner	41/10
3	b	g	Ideal World - Advance Warning (Strike Smartly)				
77	4	0.90	Queen Forever	(9)	57.5	G Cheyne	2/1
80	5	2.15	Sacred Oration	(10)	60.0	L Mxothwa	8/1
80	6	2.20	Paper Town	(5)	60.0	M Yeni	8/1
75	7	4.20	Golden Shamrock	(1)	60.0	K Steyn	36/1
69	8	4.45	Burning Mist	(4)	57.5	X Ndlovu	55/1
73	9	5.20	Desert Chief	(8)	60.0	R Munger	36/1
67	10	7.95	Tubular Bell	(2)	60.0	L Hewitson	15/1
Time: 100.25s (62.66s avg/1000m, or 57km/h) SP Total %: 116%							
1st T:J Snaith O:Mr A L A Crabbia B:Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein							

Royal Rouser

SA Champion trainer Sean Tarry saddled the top two home in the R250 000 Gr3 Acacia Handicap at Turffontein on Saturday with a duo of beautifully bred fillies fighting over the spoils.

In a lukewarm betting race, Tarry always looked to have a strong hand and it was the more fancied stablemate Redberry Lane who went out to show the way early under Lyle Hewitson, with Simply Royal relaxed in midfield.

Into the straight Redberry Lane continued to gallop powerfully as she drifted to the inside rail, pursued by Sylvan On Fire.

Under a confident ride by Raymond Danielson, Simply Royal found some time to catch her breath. But she got going when it mattered, and even though the gap on the rail shrunk, she bravely galloped on and found a good finish to hold Redberry Lane to a half length in a time of 96,7 secs.

The free-running Redberry Lane, still only a one-time winner, was registering her fifth runner-up placing on the trot, and must be overdue to win soon.

A R2,7 million 2015 National Yearling Sale purchase – where she was the fourth top lot sold – the well-related Simply Royal was registering her first stakes success and took her tally to 4 wins from 7 starts for stakes of R361 875.

An Ascot Stud-bred daughter of champion Silvano (Lomitas), the winner, who races in the AL Adiyaat SA silks, is out of the multiple winner producing Gr1 Thekwini Stakes victress, Royal Fantasy (Al Mufti).

Simply Royal is bred on the same Silvano/Al Mufti cross as champions Bold Silvano and Kings Gambit.

Gr3 Acacia Handicap (F&M) 1600m

Winner Simply Royal raced 6th; ran on strongly final 400m; got up late; jockey Danielson was fined R1000 for striking the horse more than three times in consecutive strides

Runner-up Redberry Lane set the pace 2 lengths clear; kept on strongly; piped late

Third Sylvan On Fire (best handicapped) raced 7th; moved up to 2nd at 400m; was hanging in from the 200m; beaten 2 lengths

Time: In a time just 1/100th of a second slower than the Guineas, the race was run at a fair pace, after being slowed a little around the false rail area. We gave the third (prev 79/83/96/79/69) 82 which makes the winner (prev 69/81/78/35/89) 94 and the runner-up (prev 79/82/82/86/86) 88.

94	1	0.00	SIMPLY ROYAL	(3)	55.5	R Danielson	6/1
4	b	f	Silvano - Royal Fantasy (Al Mufti)				
88	2	0.50	REDBERRY LANE	(1)	53.5	L Hewitson	5/1
4	b	f	Western Winter - Strawberry Lane (Jallad)				
82	3	2.00	SYLVAN ON FIRE	(6)	52.5	G v Niekerk	167/20
4	ch	f	Silvano - Jet Flyer (Jet Master)				
80	4	3.50	Sabina's Dynasty	(2)	53.0	M Yeni	10/1
87	5	5.00	Kilaua	(4)	57.5	G Lerena	4/1
68	6	8.25	Allieo	(10)	52.0	R Munger	15/1
68	7	8.50	Emily Jay	(9)	52.5	J Penny	10/1
70	8	9.25	Shatoosh	(5)	54.0	C Zackey	147/20
78	9	11.75	Bi Pot	(7)	60.0	G Wrogemann	12/1
68	10	11.80	Al Danza	(11)	55.5	M v Rensburg	18/1
57	11	14.00	Banking April	(8)	53.0	K Zechner	28/1
Time: 96.7s (60.44s avg/1000m, or 60km/h) SP Total %: 114%							
1st T:SG Tarry O:Al Adiyaat South Africa (Pty) Ltd B:Ascot Stud							

Snaith Star Shines

The gutsy Silvano mare Star Express scored something of a surprise victory in the R250 000 Gr3 Victress Stakes at Kenilworth on Saturday.

“She was so good last summer – but I decided like an idiot to raid Johannesburg for the Gr1 Empress Club Stakes at Turffontein in April. Things went pear-shaped and when we brought her back to Durban we just couldn’t get her feet right. So we brought her back to Cape Town and worked on getting her back to best,” said a smiling trainer Justin Snaith.

He said that, given the highs and lows experienced by many horses during their careers, it was good to see Star Express back where she should be.

The Avontuur –sponsored Callan Murray said that he had worked Star Express a week earlier and that she had felt good – but that he still couldn’t believe how strongly she galloped to the line.

“I knew she was fit and well and initially I got trapped deep. I must say I had no intention of being so far forward in terms of my riding instructions. But that’s the way the race unfolded and she really ran on so well,” said the talented young jockey.

The surprise for many of us watching from the sidelines was that when Star Express moved forward so early in the straight, that little, if anything, ran on to challenge her.

She beat the revitalised Premier Dance by 1,25 lengths in a time of 113,49 secs.

A R160 000 2014 BSA National 2yo Sale purchase by John Freeman, Star Express has undergone a few restructures in the partnership that owns her but has proven a gem with some black-type to boost her R644 250 stakes kitty.

Star Express has won 5 races with 6 places from 17 starts and can boost her paddock value further when she lines up in the Paddock Stakes next month.

Bred by Dr Ian Heyns, Star Express is a daughter of champion Silvano (Lomitas) out of the three-time winner Majestic Star (Doowaley). The latter is a half sister to Star Of Liberty – dam of champion sprinter, Bull Valley (Toreador). This is the same family as the well performed, and currently for sale, Tara Laing galloper, Star Burst Galaxy (Var).

The winner has a half-sister called Stellar Motion (#63) from the first crop of Champion Sprinter Captain Of All on the Cape Premier Yearling Sale next month.

Gr3 Victress Stakes (F&M) 1800m

Winner Star Express (joint best handicapped) raced 2nd; led 300m; ran on strongly

Runner-up Premier Dance raced fifth 3 lengths behind the winner entering the straight; ran on

Third Nightingale raced seventh, some four lengths behind the winner entering the straight; ran on

Time: Slowly run early and ending in a sprint up the straight, this was comparatively the slowest of the seven races around the turn. We gave the third horse (prev 89/101/101/86) 99 which makes the winner (prev 62/94/76/92/85) 96 and the runner-up (prev 86/93/94/90/72) 92. A false run race, where the result may not stand up.

96	1	0.00	STAR EXPRESS	(14)	57.0	C Murray	19/1
5 ch m Silvano - Majestic Star (Doowaley)							
92	2	1.25	PREMIER DANCE	(8)	56.5	S Veale	28/1
4 b f Silvano - Akinfeet (Fort Wood)							
99	3	1.65	NIGHTINGALE	(6)	60.0	A Delpech	4/1
5 b m Silvano - Quickwood (Fort Wood)							
93	4	2.40	Goodtime Gal	(4)	58.0	B Fayd'herbe	9/2
84	5	2.50	Silver Thursday	(1)	50.0	JP vd Merwe	15/1
89	6	2.70	Seattle Gold	(11)	56.5	G Cheyne	19/1
84	7	3.20	Dynamic Diana	(7)	50.5	G v Niekerk	7/2
88	8	3.70	Epona	(15)	57.0	A Marcus	19/1
88	9	4.00	Louisiana	(10)	57.0	C Orffer	15/1
80	10	4.50	Merewitz	(12)	50.0	S-Cele	22/1
91	11	5.25	Lady Of The House	(9)	59.5	P-Strydom	10/1
84	12	5.55	Oriental Oak	(12)	56.5	R Fourie	44/1
84	13	5.60	Captain Gambler	(3)	56.5	D Dillon	45/1

Stamina Counts

The smart stayer Strathdon – a half brother to Cape Guineas winner Tap O’Noth – registered a hat-trick of wins when scoring a career peak success in the R250 000 Gr3 Cape Summer Stayers Handicap at Kenilworth on Saturday.

On a red-letter day for the Foster family, who have been supporters of SA racing for 40 years, their Gr1 Cape Guineas success with Tap O’Noth was rounded off in scintillating style by the year older Strathdon, who confirmed that he is well on track for a shot at the Gr2 Western Cape Stayers on Sun Met day.

After Red Peril had filled his customary pacemaking role for much of the 2500m journey, Strathdon moved in menacingly down the inside at the 300m under Grant van Niekerk and drew level with I Travel Light and Our Emperor.

With Our Emperor shifting in on to I Travel Light under pressure, Strathdon stayed out of trouble and ran on strongly at 11-10 to win by a length in a time of 156,27 secs.

I Travel Light would have been a welcome birthday winner for visiting German jockey Martin Seidl, who is yet to open his account.

Our Emperor maintained his consistent form in third, with the rest in a different race.

Bred by Alec Foster, Strathdon is a son of champion sire Silvano (Lomitas) out of the one-time winner Wintersweet (Western Winter).

He has won 6 races with 3 places from 13 starts for stakes of R509 200.

Gr3 Summer Stayers Handicap 2500m

Winner Strathdon (joint best handicapped) raced 5th; switched in off the heels of a tiring Red Peril 400m; was carried in by Our Emperor 200m; ran on strongly to lead 120m; won going away

Runner-up I Travel Light raced 4th; brushed Red Peril 300m; led very briefly 150m; outpaced by winner

Third Our Emperor raced 6th; led 350m; shifted away from the crop 200m; well beaten

Time: Soon strung out, the pace was a fair one for a race of this nature, and the overall time was good. We gave the winner (prev 71/73/80/83/85) 87, which makes the runner-up (prev 78/77/85/81/82) 85 and the third (prev 71/73/7276/82) 83.

87	1	0.00	STRATHDON	(1)	52.0	G v Niekerk	11/10
4 ch g Silvano - Wintersweet (Western Winter)							
85	2	1.00	I TRAVEL LIGHT	(7)	52.0	M Seidl	6/1
4 b g Mambo In Seattle - Lady Onassis (National Assembly)							
83	3	2.50	OUR EMPEROR	(3)	52.0	G Cheyne	11/2
4 b g Dynasty - Express Queen (Jet Master)							
77	4	5.75	Woodland's Forest	(9)	52.0	B May	50/1
92	5	8.00	Mr Winsome	(2)	60.5	B Fayd'herbe	15/1
71	6	9.50	Red Peril	(6)	52.0	JP vd Merwe	15/1
73	7	9.55	My World	(8)	53.0	R Fourie	13/1
71	8	15.80	Cape Speed	(4)	57.0	A Delpech	6/1
51	9	21.05	Mangrove	(5)	52.0	A Andrews	36/1
Time: 156.27s (62.51s avg/1000m, or 58km/h) SP Total %: 116%							
1st T.J Snaith O:Mr A N & The Hon Mrs G R Foster B:AN Foster							

Sweet Summer Girl

The Silvano mare Girl On The Run booked her Sansui Summer Cup berth with a thrilling hard-fought victory in the Gr3 Victory Moon Stakes at Turffontein on Thursday evening.

The traditional Summer Cup last chance saloon lived up to its billing and the outcome may have influenced some decisions – both for punters and trainers, with Girl On The Run and Coral Fever putting up their big-race hands with a forward showing.

The 1800m contest hosted twelve runners, with the likes of Abashiri and Orchid Island using the race to build fitness in advance of the Gauteng flagship on 25 November.

Gavin Lerena, who wasted down to a commendable 54,5kgs, had Fort Ember out front for most of the trip but the daughter of Elusive Fort was closely watched by Donovan Mansour on Girl On The Run all the way around.

With Muzi Yeni riding a fast gaining Coral Fever for all he was worth all the way up the home straight, Mansour brought Girl On The Run to lead at the 200m – and despite Jubilee Handicap winner Coral Fever appearing to have superior momentum, Girl On The Run came right back at the Robbie Sage galloper to get the nod on the photo-finish by a short head.

The winner's time was 111.38 secs and ended a frustrating run of narrow defeats for the Johan Janse van Vuuren team.

Master Switch stayed on well for third, with Orchid Island (Delpech declared a half kilo over) obviously needing the outing after a 22 week break to run fourth. She should strip fit for the Summer Cup.

The Maine Chance Farms-bred 4yo Girl On The Run is a daughter of champion Silvano (Lomitas) and is out of the unraced Girl From Granada (Badger Land).

This was her second stakes success after winning the 2016 Gr3 Yellowwood Handicap.

She has won 6 races with 8 places from 15 starts and stakes of R860 625.

Gr3 Victory Moon Stakes 1800m

Winner Girl On The Run (best handicapped) raced 3rd; led 200m; kept on strongly

Runner-up Coral Fever was positioned 3rd last entering the straight; ran on strongly; shifted away from the crop late; lost on the nod
Third Master Switch raced without blinkers; was ridden by Pierre Strydom; stubborn loading; raced 7th; ran on

Time: The time was pretty ordinary. Run no faster comparatively on the day than most of the races around the turn. We gave the third (prev 99/99/82/87/78) 98 which makes the winner (prev 90/98/90/98/84) 91 and the runner up (prev 84/86/83/91/81) 93

91	1	0.00	GIRL ON THE RUN	(5)	50.0	D Mansour	11/2
5 ch m Silvano - Girl From Grenada (Badger Land)							
93	2	0.05	CORAL FEVER	(9)	51.0	M Yeni	11/1
5 ch g Judpot - Coral Tree (Rich Man's Gold)							
98	3	1.15	MASTER SWITCH	(7)	54.0	P Strydom	28/1
6 b g Jet Master - Lady Windsor (Al Mufthi)							
93	4	2.85	Orchid Island	(4)	53.5	A Delpech	9/2
96	5	2.90	Fort Ember	(8)	54.5	G Lerena	11/2
110	6	4.00	Abashiri	(6)	62.0	K Zechner	9/1
105	7	4.25	Matador Man	(12)	60.0	A Marcus	15/2
86	8	4.50	Witchcraft	(10)	51.5	W Kennedy	28/1
84	9	4.80	Arctica	(1)	51.0	JP vd Merwe	22/1
90	10	5.30	Liege	(3)	54.0	S Khumalo	6/1
80	11	6.90	Samurai Blade	(2)	51.0	L Hewitson	15/1
64	12	14.90	Diamond Dancer	(11)	51.0	J Penny	28/1

Time: 111.38s (61.88s avg/1000m, or 58km/h) SP Total %: 114%
1st T:JAJ v Vuuren O:Maine Chance Farms (Pty) Ltd
(Nom: Dr W A & Mrs N Jacobs) B:Maine Chance

On The Double

After his catch-me-if-you-can performance on Snowdance in the Western Cape Fillies Championship at Kenilworth just 24 hours earlier, Bernard Fayd'herbe showed his fine judgement – coincidentally from a carded 17 draw again – on the talented Nebula.

Fayd'herbe had found the near-rail position on Nebula after just 200m as the 2015 winner Stonehenge took up his customary forward role ahead of Master 'N Commander and True Master.

With the well-supported Ollivander (getting 7kgs from the winner) arriving too late, Nebula was always going too well and romped home to win by 2,25 lengths in a time of 121,30 secs – he clocked 123,23 secs under 7kgs more in 2016. This time smashed the course record set by In A Flash in November 2007.

Fayd'herbe gave his mount all the credit, saying that 'everything worked out well once we got on to the rail'.

Trainer Brett Crawford, who only saddled the one runner on the day, said that Nebula had enjoyed a good prep and that 'he likes to run fresh'.

Purchased by Tony Millard for R3,75 million at the 2014 Emperors Palace National Yearling Sale, the full-brother to 2013 Met winner Martial Eagle was bred by Wilgerbosdrift Stud and is by champion sire Silvano (Lomitas) out of the five-time winner, Seeking The Wind (Jallad).

The handsome Nebula races in the red and black of Hong Kong-based owner Edmund Siu and took his stakes earnings to R671 675, with 5 wins and 6 places from his 18 starts.

Algoa Cup (L) 2000m

Winner Nebula (last year's winner) raced 12th; ran on strongly to lead 100m; won going away

Runner-up Ollivander (carried half kg overweight) raced 9th; led 150m; outpaced final 100m

Third Stormy Eclipse raced tenth; ran on and was baulked for a run between the 500-300m marks

Time: Run visibly at a good pace throughout, this comparatively was the fastest race on the card. Nebula broke the course record set by In A Flash in 2007 by 0.87 seconds.

We gave the third (prev 93/91/87/91/96) 88 which makes the winner (prev 88/0/95/90/92) 97 and the runner-up (prev 45/73/88/82/82) 81

97	1	0.00	NEBULA	(16)	59.0	B Fayd'herbe	15/2
5 b g Silvano - Seeking The Wind (Jallad)							
81	2	2.25	OLLIVANDER	(6)	52.5	M Byleveld	6/1
4 b g Silvano - Cast A Spell (Rambo Dancer)							
88	3	2.35	STORMY ECLIPSE	(1)	57.0	X Ndlovu	22/1
6 gr g Dynasty - Stormy Appeal (Kilconnel)							
85	4	2.45	Master's Eye	(2)	55.5	G v Niekerk	15/2
92	5	3.70	Alghadeer	(10)	60.0	L Mxothwa	19/1
78	6	3.80	Loadshedder	(14)	52.5	K De Melo	12/1
81	7	4.30	Platinum Prince	(4)	54.5	R Fourie	5/2
78	8	4.80	Laws Of Succession	(17)	54.5	L Hewitson	28/1
77	9	4.90	Eternal Jet	(3)	54.0	M Thackeray	28/1
74	10	5.15	Gimme The Stars	(8)	52.0	R Munger	45/1
74	11	7.40	Kingston Mines	(9)	55.0	G Cheyne	50/1
69	12	8.65	Scent	(15)	53.5	T Gould	45/1
63	13	17.40	True Master	(11)	58.5	C Zackey	25/1
48	14	21.15	Master 'n Commander	(13)	55.0	C Murray	28/1
40	15	22.90	Story Of My Life	(5)	52.0	JP vd Merwe	30/1
36	16	23.90	One Away	(7)	52.0	J Penny	66/1
19	17	35.90	Stonehenge	(12)	54.5	K Zechner	7/1

Time: 121.3s (60.65s avg/1000m, or 59km/h) SP Total %: 121%
1st T:BJ Crawford O:Mr Edmond Siu B:Wilgerbosdrift

Snaith Treble

Backed to favourite after the scratching of his stablemate Fran-
cia in a seven horse field, the fast improving Strathdon tracked
Settlers Trophy winner Red Peril and the rested Speed Of Africa all
the way around, before being unleashed at the 350m marker to
give

The Chrigor Stud-sponsored Richard Fourie had time to glance
behind at the opposition as Strathdon drew away to win by 2,25
length in a time of 152,87 secs.

The winner looks a decent stayer in the making, as does the
runner-up Speed Of Africa, who was returning from a rest of six
months and bidding to give Dean Kannemeyer his eighth Wool-
avington success.

Only fitness caught the son of Ideal World out and he should
improve with the benefit of the outing.

Benjan plodded into third with the in-under-sufferance Man-
grove in fourth.

Settlers Trophy winner Red Peril did not have things his own way
today and faded out to fifth.

Bred by Alec Foster, Strathdon is a son of champion sire Silva-
no (Lomitas) out of the one-time winner Wintersweet (Western
Winter).

He has won 5 races with 3 places from 12 starts for stakes of
R352 950.

Woolavington Handicap (L) 2400m

Winner Strathdon raced 4th; led 200m; won going away with some in
hand

Runner-up Speed Of Africa jumped awkwardly with its head up losing
one length and thereafter was slow into stride; raced at the back early
before moving up to 2nd position at the 1400m; led 250m; outpaced
by winner

Third Benjan was always handy and held every chance

Time: The time would appear to be a fast one given that it was just
over a second outside the old course record. However, the circuit has
changed since the refurbishment and most of the distances are run-
ning faster. There was visibly no real pace on in the early stages here,
and although it did pick up when Red Peril took up the running 1800m
out, it was still nothing out of the ordinary.

We gave the winner (prev 75/71/73/80/83) 85, which makes the run-
ner-up (prev 75/71/65/75) 77 and the third horse (prev 66/51/68/64/65)
72

85	1	0.00	STRATHDON	(1)	54.0	R Fourie	17/10
4 ch g Silvano - Wintersweet (Western Winter)							
77	2	2.25	SPEED OF AFRICA	(6)	52.0	M Winnaar	7/1
4 ch g Ideal World - Strike Craft (Strike Smartly)							
72	3	3.00	BENJAN	(7)	52.0	A Andrews	8/1
5 b g Fort Wood - Awaited(GB) (Machiavellian)							
74	4	4.25	Mangrove	(2)	52.0	S Cele	17/2
77	5	4.65	Red Peril	(5)	55.5	Wes Marwing	4/1
68	6	7.90	Northern Ballet	(4)	54.0	G v Niekerk	10/1
64	7	7.95	Three Balloons	(3)	52.5	G Cheyne	20/1
Time: 152.87s (63.7s avg/1000m, or 57km/h) SP Total %: 105%							
1st T:J Snaith O:Mr A N & The Hon Mrs G R Foster B:AN Foster							

Tuned In!

The good Silvano mare Bella Sonata was overdue her first stakes
success and she finally got her act together at Turffontein on
Saturday with a gutsy victory in the Gr2 Joburg Spring Challenge
(F&M).

The tactical options were thrown wide open for the jockeys
after the heavens opened and racing proceeded following a track
inspection.

Bucking the middle to outside trend of his colleagues, jockey
Keagan De Me took the Gavin Van Zyl-trained Bella Sonata down
the inside in the run for home, cutting lonely but threatening
figures as the pair gradually made up ground.

With the younger Mrs O and Rockin Russian (both in receipt of
8kgs from Bella Sonata) looking dangerous wide out, the decep-
tive angle may have made it look closer than it was.

But the topweight relished the give in the and she made up the
ten lengths deficit in the home run to score a milestone win by a
half length in a time of 94,28 secs.

A R700 000 National Yearling Sale graduate, Bella Sonata was
registering a career first stakes success – she has won 5 of her 20
starts with 9 places and stakes of R971 900.

A daughter of Silvano (Lomitas), she was bred by Riyo Stud and
is out of the well related Bella Cantata (Singspiel), a UK bred dam
of a Gr2 winner there.

Gr2 Spring Challenge (F&M) 1450m

Winner Bella Sonata (best handicapped) lost 2 lengths at the start;
raced 10th of the twelve; was just 1,75 lengths behind the runner up
at 400m; led 150m; won going away

Runner up Mrs O raced 4th; led 300m; headed 150m; beaten 0,5
lengths

Third Rockin Russian (3rd best handicapped) raced 7th; was level
with the runner up at 400m; ran on; shifted; beaten 1,75 lengths

Time: Very heavy rain fell at times (most notably during race 4) prior
to this race, but despite that, this was still comparatively the fastest
race on the card.

We gave the winner (prev 102/100/87/93/86) 102 which makes the
runner up (prev 75/74/74) 92 and the third (prev 82/82/84/93) 89

102	1	0.00	BELLA SONATA	(4)	60.0	K De Melo	61/10
5 ch m Silvano - Bella Cantata(GB) (Singspiel)							
92	2	0.50	MRS O	(1)	52.0	JP vd Merwe	25/1
3 b f Oratorio - Ginger Hill (Western Winter)							
89	3	1.75	ROCKIN RUSSIAN	(5)	52.0	L Hewitson	7/1
3 b f Seventh Rock - Russian Foxtrot (National Emblem)							
86	4	5.00	Al Danza	(11)	59.5	C Maujean	25/1
86	5	5.05	Secret Star	(12)	59.5	P Strydom	61/10
69	6	11.25	She's A Dragon	(6)	60.0	R Munger	30/1
60	7	14.00	Shatoosh	(2)	60.0	K Zechner	10/1
56	8	15.00	Smokey Affair	(3)	59.5	R Simons	20/1
54	9	15.75	She's A Giver	(7)	59.5	G Lerena	5/2
47	10	18.25	Allieo	(8)	59.5	C Murray	20/1
45	11	18.75	Pool Party	(9)	59.5	G Wrogemann	36/1
38	12	21.00	Myfunnyvalentine	(10)	59.5	S Khumalo	14/1
Time: 94.28s (65.02s avg/1000m, or 55km/h) SP Total %: 108%							
1st T:G v Zyl O:Maine Chance Farms (Pty) Ltd							
(Norm: Dr W A & Mrs N Jacobs) B:Riyo Stud							