

Just Do It

The Snaith 4yo Do It Again outpointed the gallant Cape Guineas star Soqrat to join Mike Bass gallopers Trademark and Pocket Power as one of only three horses to achieve the July – Queen's Plate double this century.

After Hat Puntano lost many lengths at the gate, Greg Cheyne sent the widely predicted pacesetter Amazing Strike out to ensure an honest gallop, ahead of Undercover Agent, Soqrat and Snowdance, with Legal Eagle and Infamous Fox stalking the second group.

At the 400m, Do It Again still only had two behind him as Amazing Strike had cried enough and the cavalry charge fanned out in the gallop for glory.

Randall Simons slipped Soqrat, positioned at one off the rail, into a narrow lead as Richard Fourie set Do It Again alight, with Legal Eagle grinding away down the middle.

The race developed into a match between Do It Again and Soqrat, and after being straightened out confidently by Fourie, it was the 4yo who asserted his authority to win with something in hand by 0,30 lengths in a time of 97,29 secs. The Green Point Stakes on 8 December last year was run in 98,92 secs!

Soqrat, bidding to become only the second 3yo to win the race in 45 years, put in a gallant effort and Mike de Kock has an exciting prospect on his hands as the son of Epaulette ran the race of his life.

Rainbow Bridge got the pace today but was running on when it was all over and was beaten 2,75 lengths further back in third.

The reigning champion Legal Eagle was in touch all the way but had nothing to offer when called upon and shaded Undercover Agent out of fourth. He should not be written off and could well bounce back in the Highveld season.

Snowdance is another who had every opportunity but was well beaten into sixth, with the slow starting Hat Puntano, Infamous Fox and Amazing Strike in another race.

A winner of 5 races with 4 places from 10 starts for stakes of R4 285 000, Do It Again was purchased by leading stallion manager John Freeman for R1,1 million at the 2016 National Yearling Sale

Bred by Northfields, Do It Again is a first crop son of Twice Over (Observatory), the first sire in the modern era to get a 3yo winner of the Durban July.

He is out of the six-time winning Sweet Virginia (Casey Tibbs).

Gr1 Queens Plate 1600m

Winner Do It Again was slow into stride and raced in the rear early; was 7th entering home straight; ran on strongly to lead close home Runner-up Soqrat raced in fourth, and led 200m out; piped late Third Rainbow Bridge was slow into stride; raced second-last early; was 8th entering home straight; was with winner 400m out but no extra late

Time: Run at a brisk pace early on, this comparatively was the fastest of the seven races around the turn. We gave the winner (prev 89/100/98/103/113) 113 which makes the runner-up (prev 87/92/95/95/101) 109 and the third (prev 85/91/95/103/109) 107

113	1	0.00	DO IT AGAIN	(6)	60.0	R Fourie	9/2
4 b g Twice Over - Sweet Virginia (Casey Tibbs)							
109	2	0.30	SOQRAT	(3)	55.0	R Simons	5/1
3 b c Epaulette - Elizeeza(AUS) (Hussonet)							
107	3	3.05	RAINBOW BRIDGE	(4)	60.0	B Fayd'herbe	32/10
4 b g Ideal World - Halfway To Heaven (Jet Master)							
105	4	4.05	Legal Eagle	(7)	60.0	A Marcus	3/1
104	5	4.10	Undercover Agent	(5)	60.0	C Orffer	9/2
97	6	5.10	Snowdance	(8)	57.5	L Hewitson	11/1
79	7	15.85	Hat Puntano	(9)	60.0	D Dillon	50/1
66	8	21.60	Infamous Fox	(1)	60.0	R Danielson	50/1
0	9	99.99	Amazing Strike	(2)	60.0	G Cheyne	100/1

Time: 97.29s (60.81s avg/1000m, or 59km/h) SP Total %: 115%
1st T.J Snaith O: Messrs N Jonsson, B Kantor & W J C Mitchell
B: Northfields Stud

Tumble...Then A Treble!

Richard Fourie got Sun Met entry Doublemint up to catch the free-striding Kampala Campari in the shadow of the post in the R400 000 Gr2 Peninsula Handicap.

Aldo Domeyer had Kampala Campari out front from the jump in the 1800 contest and he led Magnificent Seven, Ballad Of The Sea and The Slade.

In the run for home Kampala Campari continued to gallop powerfully and found himself up against the outside rail and not looking like stopping.

Fourie was working on Doublemint, who had been loping along back of midfield about ten lengths off the pace, and the son of Twice Over (yes, another one!) started picking them off as he got the leader in his sights.

Under a top ride Doublemint found Kampala Campari in the shadow of the past for a last stride win by a neck in a time of 110,86 secs.

Longshot Man About Town plugged away smartly for the R40 000 cheque in third a further 2,25 lengths away, with stayer American Landing improving again in fourth.

Last year's winner and favourite Eyes Wide Open, plodded late and could do no better than a 4,55 length sixth. This talented colt, the 2018 Investec Cape Derby winner, is becoming a frustrating horse to follow. Gelding seems the obvious course of action.

A winner of 5 races with 5 places from 12 starts, Doublemint was another winner for Observatory stallion Twice Over, who enjoyed a memorable day, also siring the winner of the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate.

The winner was bred by Alec Foster out of the one-time winner Nepeta (Tale Of The Cat). Doublemint races in the familiar Foster scarlet and gold.

Gr2 Peninsula Handicap 1800m

Winner Doublemint raced 8th, some seven lengths off the pace; ran on strongly to get up very late

Runner-up Kampala Campari (best handicapped) set the pace; skipped clear early in the home straight; piped very late

Third Man About Town raced fitted with blinkers; raced midfield, some six lengths off the pace; ran on

Time: Just 0.25 seconds separated the winners of the three 1800m feature events of which this was the fastest. We gave the runner-up (prev 95/83/86/85/102) 102 which makes the winner (prev 83/83/88/91/92) 97 and the third (prev 75/78/65/79/79) 84

97	1	0.00	DOUBLEMINT	(3)	55.5	R Fourie	9/2
4 ch c Twice Over - Nepeta(NZ) (Tale of the Cat)							
102	2	0.20	KAMPALA CAMPARI	(2)	58.0	A Domeyer	113/20
5 b g Querari - Kwitizina (Captain Al)							
84	3	2.45	MAN ABOUT TOWN	(1)	52.0	M Winnaar	22/1
4 b c Gitano Hernando - Ethnic Beauty (Leopard Strike)							
81	4	3.70	American Landing	(10)	52.0	S Veale	28/1
81	5	4.45	Ballad Of The Sea	(6)	52.5	R Munger	22/1
102	6	4.55	Eyes Wide Open	(5)	62.0	G Lerena	63/20
81	7	4.75	Magnificent Seven	(8)	53.0	S Khumalo	27/4
84	8	6.75	Platinum Prince	(7)	56.0	L Hewitson	9/2
78	9	9.25	The Slade	(4)	55.5	K De Meo	18/1
79	10	14.75	Elusive Silva	(9)	61.0	B Fayd'herbe	13/1

Time: 110.86s (61.59s avg/1000m, or 58km/h) SP Total %: 113%
1st T.J Snaith O: Mr A N & The Hon Mrs G R Foster B: A N Foster

Goodbye To Grant

After an emotional hangover that probably lasted most of the week following the Vodacom Durban July, Hong-Kong bound Grant van Niekerk bade his Kenilworth home base a fond farewell at his final racemeeting at the Southern Suburbs venue this season.

He produced a polished ride aboard the Justin Snaith-trained Doublemint to win the R250 000 Gr3 Highlands Winter Derby.

Van Niekerk flies out on 4 August with Callan Murray to fulfill his Hong Kong Jockey Club contract, which is scheduled to last six months.

And he will be pleased with his feature success as Klawervlei stallion Twice Over followed up his big victory in the Vodacom Durban July with the 3yo Do It Again.

The Foster family bred Doublemint, winner of the 2018 Politician Stakes, stormed clear of his field in the final 300m to register a facile win.

The SA Jockey Academy may want to consider revisiting the syllabus for the all important subject of pace before the year is out, with riders in the 2400m final leg of the Highlands Cape Winter Series again hanging on for dear life when the stalls opened with nobody keen to go.

Given the heavy going, there would probably naturally be concerns amongst the jockeys to conserve energy. But if pace makes the race, why is there always such an issue with it?

In the end it was the proven stayer Rock My Soul who carted Spring Man and Power Tower along at a fair gallop.

Van Niekerk rode a confident race from midfield and when he produced Doublemint at the 350m pole it was race over.

The smart chestnut strode away to win by 3,25 lengths in a time of 154,56 secs.

It was the Snaith Racing team's third consecutive Winter Derby success after African Night Sky (2017) and July third-placer Elusive Silva (2016).

Spring Man was thereabouts for a long way and the son of Marchfield stayed on for a well beaten second, with Australian-bred Ballad Of The Sea another half length away in third.

The rest plodded in the stamina sapping underfoot conditions.

Doublemint, who has won 4 races with 5 places from 10 starts for stakes of R482 750, had been placed in the first two legs of the series, which were won by the absent Rainbow Bridge.

The winner was bred by Alec Foster and is by Twice Over (Observatory) out of the one-time winner Nepeta (Tale Of The Cat).

He should be an interesting SA Champions Season prospect in 2019

Gr3 Winter Derby (3yo's) 2400m

Winner Doublemint (best handicapped) raced 6th; led 250m out; won going away

Runner-up Spring Man led until 1200m; raced 2nd entering the straight; outpaced final 250m by winner

Third Ballad Of The Sea raced fitted with blinkers; raced fourth; hanging out from the 300m; held every chance

Time: The slowest of the seven races on the actual bend, the field was very tightly bunched entering the straight, and the race developed into a sprint. We gave the runner-up (prev 84/76/84/83/84) 84 which makes the winner (prev 77/78/83/83/88) 91 and the third (prev 63/72/72/76/74) 83

91	1	0.00	DOUBLEMINT	(6)	60.0	G v Niekerk	2/1
3 ch c Twice Over - Nepeta(NZ) (Tale of the Cat)							
84	2	3.25	SPRING MAN	(2)	59.0	C Orffer	5/1
3 b g Marchfield - Diorella (Fort Wood)							
83	3	3.75	BALLAD OF THE SEA (1)	59.0	R Khathi		22/1
3 b g Teofilo - Sea Song(AUS) (Fasliyev)							
79	4	6.00	Love Happens	(9)	59.0	R Fourie	5/1
75	5	8.25	Man About Town	(3)	59.0	G Cheyne	44/1
74	6	8.75	Ancestry	(5)	59.0	B Fayd'herbe	113/20
71	7	10.50	Pacific Chestnut	(4)	59.0	R Munger	44/1
70	8	11.25	Rock My Soul	(7)	59.0	D Dillon	15/4
56	9	19.50	Power Tower	(8)	59.0	A Domeyer	44/1
Time: 154.56s (64.4s avg/1000m, or 56km/h) SP Total %: 114%							
1st T.J Snaith O:Mr A N & The Hon Mrs G R Foster B:AN Foster							

Snaith's 1-2-3!

Justin Snaith saddled the top three home in Saturday's R4 250 000 Gr1 Vodacom Durban July at Greyville on Saturday.

The field got away on terms and there was no pace on early – despite our assurances to the contrary from two top jockeys earlier last week! After White River had led for the first 500m, Jeff Lloyd started making a move to take up the running. But the Australian-based rider, bidding to win his first July at his 26th and final attempt, was overtaken by Grant van Niekerk, who took the favourite African Night Sky up to lead.

The son of Dynasty turned for home ahead of Made To Conquer, as Anton Marcus urged Do It Again to run from six lengths off.

Made To Conquer hit the front and looked to be going well enough into the final stages.

But all the jets were powering on the 9-1 Guineas winner Do It Again and Anton Marcus swept into the lead as he charged away to beat Made To Conquer by 1,25 lengths in a time of 135,20 secs – the slowest time in the last four runnings.

Snaith rounded off a rare trifecta with comeback hero Elusive Silva showing that his heart is far bigger than two tendon injuries, as he battled on for third a further 4,25 lengths back, to confirm his recent Betting World 1900 victory.

Dubai-bound Majestic Mambo (6,75 lengths) made up lengths in the straight to bank fourth. This is not his ideal course and we will follow his overseas progress with interest.

African Night Sky's exertions told in the final 300m and he hung on for fifth (7,25 lengths). Van Niekerk may have a few questions to answer for a strange decision on a horse who has won over a mile.

Do It Again has won 4 races with 3 places from 8 starts for stakes of R3 307 500.

He was knocked down to John Freeman for R1,1 million at the 2016 National Yearling Sale

Bred by Northfields, Do It Again is a son of Twice Over (Observatory) out of the six-time winning Sweet Virginia (Casey Tibbs).

Gr1 Vodacom July 2200m

Winner Do It Again was positioned 6th entering the straight; led 290m; ran on strongly

Runner-up Made To Conquer raced 2nd; led 450m; ran on

Third Elusive Silva was slow into stride; raced 9th 2 lengths behind the winner; ran on but was beaten over 5 lengths, by far the largest margin between winner and 3rd finisher in the last 20 years of the July – illustrating just what a farce this year's renewal was.

Time: With no pace on early, the field was very tightly bunched, with a number of horses refusing to settle. As a result of this positions changed considerably in the running and a number of horses that usually race from off the pace were sighted towards the front. Slowly run and decided in a sprint for home, where the first two finishers were flattered by their margin at the finish. Reliably rating the race is not possible, and we can do no more than take a conservative approach. Certainly not a result to rely on for future events. We gave the third (prev 96/90/84/90/99) 99 which (with an arbitrary additional adjustment) makes the winner (prev 89/85/89/100/98)

103 and the runner-up (prev 74/76/78/87/88) 95							
103	1	0.00	DO IT AGAIN	(15)	54.0	A Marcus	9/1
3 b g Twice Over - Sweet Virginia (Casey Tibbs)							
95	2	1.25	MADE TO CONQUER	(11)	53.0	J Lloyd	31/4
4 b g Dynasty - Festive Occasion (Casey Tibbs)							
99	3	5.50	ELUSIVE SILVA	(13)	56.5	B Fayd'herbe	14/1
5 ch g Silvano - Esprit (Fort Wood)							
95	4	6.75	Majestic Mambo	(17)	54.0	C Murray	9/1
97	5	7.25	African Night Sky	(9)	57.0	G v Niekerk	71/20
92	6	7.35	Rocket Countdown	(4)	53.0	S Randolph	50/1
90	7	8.10	Fiorella	(7)	53.0	M Khan	25/1
86	8	8.15	Tilbury Fort	(18)	53.0	L Hewitson	18/1
102	9	8.20	Coral Fever	(3)	60.0	M Yeni	16/1
92	10	8.70	Liege	(16)	56.0	R Danielson	45/1
85	11	8.85	Dark Moon Rising	(2)	53.0	W Kennedy	25/1
86	12	8.90	Matador Man	(14)	53.5	S Khumalo	16/1
87	13	9.05	Secret Potion	(10)	52.0	M v Rensburg	55/1
88	14	9.55	Yakeen	(6)	53.0	R Simons	16/1
89	15	9.80	Star Express	(8)	55.5	A Domeyer	18/1
86	16	10.55	White River	(12)	53.0	C Orffer	15/1
95	17	11.55	Gold Standard	(5)	59.5	C Zackey	30/1
0	18	77.55	Abashiri	(1)	58.5	P Strydom	10/1
Time: 135.2s (61.45s avg/1000m, or 59km/h) SP Total %: 120%							
1st T.J Snaith O:Messrs N Jonsson, B Kantor & W J C Mitchell B:Northfields Stud							

Snaith Does It Again

Just as things looked to be turning pear-shaped, Justin Snaith pulled the SA Champions Season launch on Friday evening out of the fire with an exciting win by his Twice Over gelding Do It Again in the R600 000 Gr2 Daisy Guineas.

The precautionary withdrawal of stable star Oh Susanna with a bruised heel from the Guineas early on Friday morning, was followed by an uncomfortable showing by Copper Force (not enjoying the conditions) in the Drill Hall Stakes, and then a heart-stopping narrow defeat for their dual Gr1 winner Snowdance in the Daisy Fillies Guineas.

But the Daisy Guineas victory for the handsome son of Twice Over righted the ship and set the foundation for a big season.

After Wonderwall had shown the way and local hope Sniper Shot had slipped into the lead at the 300m, Do It Again was seen making massive strides and he hit the front at the 200m to win going away by 1,25 lengths in a time of 96,03 secs.

Sniper Shot ran a game race in second and held off the Gr1 Cape Guineas winner Tap O'Noth who looked in need of the outing.

Do It Again has won 3 races with 2 places from 5 starts for stakes of R707 500. He was knocked down to John Freeman for R1,1 million at the 2016 National Yearling Sale

Bred by Northfields, Do It Again is a son of Twice Over (Observatory) out of the six-time winning Sweet Virginia (Casey Tibbs).

Described as the best horse he trained by Phillipi trainer Riaan Van Reenen, the slightly built Sweet Virginia is out of the Royal Prerogative Millie Bovana. She was victorious in the 2005 Gr3 Final Fling Stakes, and walloped the boys in the Gr3 Winter Classic and Winter Derby – a feat not matched by her own sex since.

Gr2 Daisy Guineas 1600m

Winner Do It Again lost 2 lengths at the start; raced at the back of the eight; hard ridden to lead 200m won going away

Runner up Sniper Shot (3rd best handicapped) raced 7th; ran on and challenged 150m; outpaced latter stages by winner; beaten 1,25 lengths

Third Tap O'Noth (2nd best handicapped) lost one length at the start; positioned sixth entering the straight; ran on; beaten 2,25 lengths

Time: Run 0,3 seconds slower than the Fillies Guineas, the race slowed rounding the turn and very tightly bunched entering the straight developed into a sprint

100	1	0.00	DO IT AGAIN	(8)	60.0	B Fayd'herbe	31/4
3 b g Twice Over - Sweet Virginia (Casey Tibbs)							
98	2	1.25	SNIPER SHOT	(7)	60.0	K De Melo	14/1
3 ch g Judpot - Seven Veils (Rich Man's Gold)							
96	3	2.25	TAP O'NOTH	(3)	60.0	M Byleveld	18/10
3 b c Captain Al - Wintersweet (Western Winter)							
94	4	2.75	White River	(4)	60.0	C Orffer	26/10
93	5	3.50	Mardi Gras	(5)	60.0	R Danielson	71/10
92	6	4.00	Kazaar	(1)	60.0	R Fourie	12/1
89	7	5.25	Wonderwall	(2)	60.0	S Khumalo	8/1
71	8	13.25	Premier Show	(6)	60.0	C Murray	45/1

Time: 96.03s (60.02s avg/1000m, or 60km/h) SP Total %: 115%
1st T.J Snaith O: Messrs N Jonsson, B Kantor & W J C Mitchell
B: Northfields Stud

Fort Knocks

The Fosters could well have an Investec Cape Derby back-up on their hands after Doublemint's impressive R250 000 Gr3 Politician Stakes score at Kenilworth on Saturday.

A two-time winner, with a victory over the boom 3yo Talk Of The Town to his credit, Doublemint was not expected to be quite ready to win a Gr3 at his first try at 1800m.

But the race panned out perfectly, with the son of Twice Over relaxed in third and tracking The Sun Also Rises and Run Red.

Van Niekerk gave Doublemint the sign at the 350m marker and he strode on past the pacesetter like a smart horse to hold The Sun Also Rises – who found a second breath late – to a 1,50 length win in a time of 111,73 secs.

Steel Rose ran a gutsy, albeit well beaten, third a further two lengths back.

Trainer Justin Snaith labelled Doublemint an 'arrogant type of horse who doesn't enjoy getting beaten.' He admitted modestly that there was no real plan and the race had just come up. He may now be thinking about further options for the handsome chestnut.

Doublemint, who has won 3 races with 3 places from 7 starts for stakes of R289 000, was bred by Alec Foster from Klawervlei sire, Twice Over (Observatory) and is out of the one-time winner Nepeta (Tale Of The Cat).

Gr3 Politician Stakes R250.000 1800m

Winner Doublemint raced handy, running on to account for the pace setter

Runner-up The Sun Also Rises made the pace; ran on but was out-paced by winner

Third finisher Steel Rose was never nearer than at the finish, well beaten

This was the slowest of the three 1800m races, although only marginally slower than the false run Paddock Stakes. The quality of this Gr3 race is debatable and the ratings give little encouragement for future to the featured horses. We gave the runner-up (61-68-69-73-76-80) 80, which makes the winner (71-59-75-79-77-78) 83 and the third horse (76-75-85-82-72-79) 79

83	1	0.00	DOUBLEMINT	(7)	55.5	G v Niekerk	13/2
3 ch c Twice Over - Nepeta(NZ) (Tale of the Cat)							
80	2	1.50	THE SUN ALSO RISES (10)	(10)	55.5	P Strydom	13/2
3 b g Trippi - Hawker Hunter (Jet Master)							
79	3	3.50	STEEL ROSE	(1)	57.0	P Botha	11/1
3 b g Gitano Hernando - Single Rose (Joshua Dancer)							
78	4	3.90	Opera Royal	(2)	57.0	R Fourie	4/1
73	5	4.65	Visigoth	(5)	55.5	L Hewitson	15/1
83	6	4.75	Ancestry	(3)	60.0	B Fayd'herbe	9/2
72	7	5.05	Big Parade	(9)	55.5	A Delphech	5/1
76	8	5.10	Big Pleasure	(4)	57.0	D Dillon	13/2
69	9	6.60	Orakal	(8)	55.5	M Byleveld	36/1
67	10	7.85	Run Red	(6)	55.5	A Domeyer	15/1

Time: 111.73s (62.07s avg/1000m, or 58km/h) SP Total %: 118%

1st T.J Snaith O: Mr A N & The Hon Mrs G R Foster B: An Foster