

Bring On The Big Guns

Former 61 Mechanised Battalion Gunner and long-suffering owner Rod Mattheyse pulled rank at Kenilworth on Saturday when he shouted his What A Winter gelding Three Two Charlie home from the 600m marker, before the 'gross' galloper swept forward late to win the R150 000 Listed Sophomore Sprint.

It was something of a pleasing plan come together for Rod Mattheyse, who bred the 3yo in partnership with Beaumont Stud's Anton Shepherd and others.

"I didn't feel that we were getting enough money for him when he went through the ring at the Cape Premier Yearling Sale – so I bought him," said a broad-smiling Mattheyse, who confirmed that he had named the yearling – built like a tank – after his military unit.

Trainer Candice Bass-Robinson described Three Two Charlie as a horse blessed with a super temperament – but quite a gross specimen – and that's just why she could afford to give him a run ten days earlier.

Gross in equine terminology indicates that he is a big strong upstanding heavy horse – and can takes lots of work.

Ridgemont-Highlands jockey Greg Cheyne rode a confident race – on a horse he admitted he knew little about.

"He is an unassuming, lovely, big gross fellow. He was travelling well early and we got a bit cramped. So I gave him a chance. Our stablemate Constable pulled us through late. He should go a mile, I think," said the recently crowned multiple East Cape Champion rider.

After King Of Gems, Finding Camelot and Captain Tatters had looked to attack going into the final stages, Three Two Charlie (6-1) scythed through the traffic from some way off the gallop and stayed on best to beat Captain Tatters by 1,50 lengths in a time of 75,07 secs.

King Of Gems was a neck back in third, with the winner's stablemate Constable showing he needed it in fourth.

Djokovic was a further 1,50 lengths back in fifth.

The rest were well beaten.

A R250 000 Cape Premier Yearling Sale graduate, Three Two Charlie has won 2 races with 3 places from 5 starts and stakes of R188 350.

Bred by Beaumont Stud, Three Two Charlie is a gelded son of triple Equus Champion What A Winter (Western Winter) out of the four-time winner, Mairingi Bay (Joshua Dancer).

Sophomore Sprint (3yo's) (L) 1200m

Winner Three Two Charlie raced in midfield; led 200m; won going away

Runner-up Captain Tatters (best handicapped) was brushed at the start; raced level with winner in midfield; ran on

Third King Of Gems was slow into stride; carried inwards 900m; raced fifth; kept on strongly

Time: Only the second fastest of the three sprint races, the time was not a fast one, and the field resembled a cavalry charge 250m out. Read the result and ratings in that context. We gave the runner-up (prev 88/95) 93 which makes the winner (prev 88/88/89/83) 98 and the third (prev 85/83/95/85) 92

98	1	0.00	THREE TWO CHARLIE	(6)	60.0	G Cheyne	6/1
3 b g What A Winter - Mairingi Bay (Joshua Dancer)							
93	2	1.50	CAPTAIN TATTERS	(9)	60.0	R Fourie	21/10
3 b g Gimmethegreenlight - Lady Tatty (Solskjaer)							
92	3	1.70	KING OF GEMS	(1)	60.0	D Dillon	10/1
3 ch c Kingsbarns - Sapphire Gem (Trippi)							
91	4	2.10	Constable	(8)	60.0	K De Melo	4/1
85	5	3.60	Djokovic	(10)	60.0	O Noach	28/1
72	6	7.35	Call Me Al	(4)	60.0	A Andrews	36/1
68	7	8.35	Warrior Tiger	(2)	60.0	G Behr	22/1
63	8	9.85	Finding Camelot	(3)	60.0	C Orffer	13/2
61	9	10.35	Ground Control	(7)	60.0	M Byleveld	12/1
21	10	21.60	Hardfallingrain	(5)	60.0	M Winnaar	16/1
Time: 75.07s (62.56s avg/1000m, or 58km/h) SP Total %: 113%							
1st T: C Bass-Robinson O: Mr R T Mattheyse B: Beaumont Stud							

On Target

The trend of tight feature finishes continued at a cloudy Kenilworth with the lesser fancied Candice Bass-Robinson runner Snow Report shading the favourite Silver Operator in a thriller to win the Gr3 Langerman.

The race, a traditional test of local juvenile strength, saw the money come for Vaughan Marshall's impressive recent debut winner Silver Operator – the confidence obviously buoyed by the Milnerton veteran's impressive record in the 2yo feature.

Interestingly, the top two turned for home alongside each other about three lengths off the leader.

Bernard Fayd'herbe took Snow Report down the more direct rail route and this proved the match winner, as Silver Operator appeared very green down the centre of the track and may have caused interference (but was there a gap?) to Joey Ramsden's Double Alliance, who was obliged to check severely when making his run.

Through it all, Snow Report had slipped down the inside and under a hard ride by Bernard Fayd'herbe managed to stave off the enthusiastic attentions of the 2-1 favourite Silver Operator to win by a head in a time of 95,92 secs – over a second slower than the fairer sex equivalent on the published times.

Finding Camelot made the pace but had no answers late – he ran third, ahead of his stablemate King Of Gems.

Double Alliance was the unlucky horse of the race and did well to only run 2,55 lengths off the winner.

Bred by the Limestone Thoroughbred Trust, Snow Report was purchased for R400 000 off the 2018 CTS April Yearling Sale and took his earnings to R196 000 with his second win and a place from 4 starts.

The winner is a son of prolific 2yo winner producer and triple Equus Champion What A Winter (Western Winter) out of the one-time winner, Snug As A Bug (Qui Danzig).

What A Winter has ten lots on the KZN Yearling Sale this week.

Langerman (2yo's) (L) 1500m

Winner Snow Report was slow into stride; raced 5th; led 180m, just held on

Runner-up Silver Operator raced 4th; shifted in and found some interference

350m; ran on very well latter stages; lost on nod

Third Finding Camelot set the pace; kept on strongly

Time: Only the fourth fastest of the eight races around the turn, this was

run over a second slower than the fillies in the Iridescence Stakes.

We

gave the third (prev 64/82/84/85) 85 which makes the winner (prev 83/84/76)

86 and the runner-up (prev 85) 86

86	1	0.00	SNOW REPORT	(2)	60.0	B Fayd'herbe	9/1
2 c What A Winter - Snug As A Bug (Qui Danzig)							
86	2	0.05	SILVER OPERATOR	(7)	60.0	M Byleveld	2/1
2 b c Silvano - Sting Operation (Captain Al)							
85	3	0.80	FINDING CAMELOT	(5)	60.0	C Orffer	2/1
2 b c Camelot - Saldanha Bay (IRE) (Nayer)							
83	4	1.80	King Of Gems	(8)	60.0	G Cheyne	11/1
82	5	2.55	Double Alliance	(6)	60.0	S Khumalo	113/20
80	6	3.55	Minnesota Dream	(1)	60.0	D Dillon	36/1
75	7	6.55	Djokovic	(4)	60.0	O Noach	13/1
65	8	10.05	Path Of Choice	(3)	58.0	S Mbhele	44/1
Time: 95.92s (63.95s avg/1000m, or 56km/h) SP Total %: 112%							
1st T: C Bass-Robinson O: Miss G Burg & Messrs N M Shirtiliff & M J T Wickens B: Limestone Thoroughbred Trust							

Winter, Winter, Winter!

Giving Bernard Fayd'herbe a feature double (in his five winners on the afternoon), Armando lengthened his stride and drew away to register his second stakes victory in a time of 73,9 secs.

Fearless Warrior ran his heart out and was full value for his second cheque, a half length behind the winner, and close to three lengths ahead of the balance.

In a nice touch, the beaten jockey MJ Byleveld gave the rampant Fayd'herbe a congratulatory fist pump at the pull-up.

Three Two Charlie stayed on into third in his post-maiden performance, without really threatening the top two.

Only five ran.

A R650 000 National Yearling Sale buy, Armando has won 3 from 3 and took his stakes earnings to R268 750.

Bred by Lammerskraal, the winner is a son of Equus champion What A Winter (Western Winter) out of the Yes It's True mare, Big Mona.

Gr3 Cape Of Good Hope Nursery (2yo's) 1200m

Winner Armando (best handicapped) was bumped at the start; raced 4th of the five; led 100m

Runner up Fearless Warrior was bumped at the start; set the pace 1,75 lengths clear; outrun latter stages by winner; beaten 0,5 lengths Third Three Two Charlie raced at the back 4,5 lengths off the pace; running on at finish; beaten 3,25 lengths.

Time: Although this was the fastest of the afternoon's three sprint races, the pace was not hot very early on and other races on the day suggest that this was not a particularly good time.

We gave the winner (prev 87/95) 95 which makes the runner up (prev 88/70/89) 94 and the third (prev 86/86) 87

95	1	0.00	ARMANDO	(5)	60.0	B Fayd'herbe	6/10
2 b c What A Winter - Big Mona(USA) (Yes It's True)							
94	2	0.50	FEARLESS WARRIOR	(4)	60.0	M Byleveld	5/1
2 b c Vercingetorix - War Path (Captain Al)							
87	3	3.25	THREE TWO CHARLIE	(1)	60.0	C Zackey	15/1
2 b c What A Winter - Mairingi Bay (Joshua Dancer)							
84	4	4.25	Savvy	(3)	60.0	L Mxothwa	22/1
76	5	7.25	Snow Report	(2)	60.0	A Andrews	4/1
Time: 73.9s (61.58s avg/1000m, or 58km/h) SP Total %: 110%							
1st T: BJ Crawford O: Mr R Ng B: Lammerskraal Stud							

A Grade!

The Brett Crawford Racing Team crowned a memorable feature weekend when the What A Winter colt Armando proved too strong for his rivals and bounded clear to maintain his unbeaten record in the R150 000 Listed Somerset 1200 at Kenilworth on Sunday.

With a Gr2 win at Greyville on Friday evening and a big Gr1 score by the speed merchant Pacific Trader at Turffontein on Saturday, Armando completed the run and only won a listed race – but caught the eye in the process.

Owned by Hong Kong interests, Armando started a hot order at 9-10 and duly confirmed his impressive Durbanville debut win last month with a facile win – albeit by just a length.

Brett Crawford, who had a busy weekend saddling winners out of a suitcase, thanked the owner and Tony Millard for the privilege of training a horse who could be headed East in time to come.

A R650 000 National Yearling Sale buy, Armando has won 2 from 2 and took his stakes earnings to R143 750.

Bred by Lammerskraal, the winner is a son of Equus champion What A Winter (Western Winter) out of the Yes It's True mare, Big Mona.

Somerset 1200 (2yo's) (L)

Winner Armando raced 3rd; brushed Ground Control 100m out; led 100m; ran on

Runner-up Captain Tatters raced 6th of the eight 3 lengths off the pace; ran on

Third Ground Control (best handicapped) set the pace; brushed winner 100m out; out-run latter stages

Time: The third fastest of the afternoon's five sprint races, and the time on the day was a moderate one. We gave the third (prev 87/91) 90 which makes the winner (prev 87) 95 and the runner-up (prev 86) 93

95	1	0.00	ARMANDO	(2)	60.0	C Orffer	9/10
2 b c What A Winter - Big Mona(USA) (Yes It's True)							
93	2	1.00	CAPTAIN TATTERS	(6)	60.0	R Fourie	5/1
2 b c Gimmetheregrenlight - Lady Tatty (Solskjaer)							
90	3	2.00	GROUND CONTROL	(1)	60.0	G Cheyne	14/1
2 b c Var - Pan Amm (Jet Master)							
85	4	3.75	Minnesota Dream	(7)	60.0	K De Melo	16/1
71	5	9.00	Tutorial	(5)	60.0	B Fayd'herbe	28/1
70	6	9.20	Fearless Warrior	(8)	60.0	M Byleveld	4/1
61	7	12.45	Mister Vargus	(4)	60.0	R Khathi	36/1
54	8	15.20	Hexatonic	(3)	60.0	M Winnaar	20/1
Time: 74.22s (61.85s avg/1000m, or 58km/h) SP Total %: 113%							
1st T: BJ Crawford O: Mr R Ng B: Lammerskraal Stud							

Visitors Rule

The feature on the afternoon, the R150 000 Listed Ibhayi Stakes run over the 1400m, was a victory for the Cape raiders!

After The Highway Man, All The Sevens and Falcon Rock had made the early pace, the Snaith's lightly raced favourite Trip To The Sky slipped through on the inside rail looking very dangerous.

But after a brief duel, Fabian scythed through the middle and went on powerfully to make it a Cape exacta, winning by 1,50 lengths in a time of 84,45 secs.

The gallant filly March Music was not disgraced in third, with George Uren's maiden Little Drummer Boy showing well to run into fourth.

The Lammerskraal bred Fabian made it a double for the Bass Equus Champion Sprinter and now Drakenstein based sire, What A Winter (Western Winter).

The winner is a first foal for the Parade Leader one-time winner, Furina.

With 2 wins and 3 places from 8 starts for stakes of R188 725, Fabian, a R500 000 National Yearling Sale graduate, looks well set to go on and win his races.

The second leg of the East Cape Poly Challenge is the R150 000 Listed East Cape Guineas run on 29 March.

The series winds up with the running of the R350 000 Listed East Cape Derby on Saturday 11 May. A R250 000 bonus is payable to the owner who wins all three legs.

Ibhayi Stakes (3yo's) (L) 1400m

Winner Fabian (best handicapped) raced 6th; led 150m; won well
Runner-up Trip To The Sky (2nd best handicapped) raced 5th; ran on; held by winner

March Music raced 4th; led 250m; no chance with first two

Time: This was the second fastest of the three races around the turn, the time a good one.

We gave the third (prev 85/74/67/86/72) 82 which makes the winner (prev 74/83/62/80/85) 86 and the runner-up (prev 52/82/76/80/83) 82

86	1	0.00	FABIAN	(2)	56.0	A Domeyer	26/10
3 b g	What A Winter - Furina (Parade Leader)						
82	2	1.25	TRIP TO THE SKY	(3)	56.0	R Fourie	16/10
3 b g	Trippi - Skyblade (Jet Master)						
82	3	2.25	MARCH MUSIC	(7)	57.5	L Hewitson	113/20
3 b f	Bold Silvano - March Westerly(USA) (Gone West)						
75	4	3.50	Little Drummer Boy	(11)	56.0	C Maujean	55/1
70	5	5.25	Deepston	(6)	56.0	M Byleveld	6/1
75	6	6.50	Gun Hill	(8)	60.0	R Munger	28/1
70	7	7.75	Landela	(5)	59.5	T Gould	28/1
70	8	8.00	The Highway Man	(10)	60.0	M Yeni	28/1
64	9	8.75	Falcon Rock	(4)	58.0	X Ndlovu	28/1
43	10	14.25	All The Sevens	(9)	56.0	L Mxothwa	44/1
42	11	16.00	Masterful	(1)	58.0	R Danielson	44/1

Time: 84.45s (60.32s avg/1000m, or 60km/h) **SP Total %:** 116%

1st **T:**C Bass-Robinson **O:**Mesrs Bryn Ressel & N M Shirtliff

B:Lammerskraal Stud

What A Summer!

Candice Bass-Robinson celebrated her first Gr1 success with Nightingale in the 2017 Majorca Stakes and she was back in the Majorca mix at Kenilworth on Saturday.

On Saturday, Clouds Unfold came in off a perfect prep, she settled beautifully and disposed of three of the best around in last year's winner Snowdance, the top class Lady In Black and unbeaten 3yo Front And Centre, to register a victory that suggests that the world is her oyster.

Aldo Domeyer rode a peach of a race and had Clouds Unfold beautifully settled, as the talented Snowdance took the fight to her opponents and led her field ahead of Goodtime Gal and Fiorella.

At the 300m, the writing was on the wall for Snowdance as the challenges came from all round.

With Lady In Black and the athletic Front And Centre challenging through the middle, Domeyer sent the white-blazed Clouds Unfold up the outside rail and the chestnut filly came of age properly in front of the ecstatic crowd to grab her biggest success, beating the year older Lady In Black by 1,50 lengths in a time of 98,06 secs.

Front And Centre lost her unbeaten record but absolutely no dignity, going down a head for third, with Fresnaye shading the disappointing Snowdance for fourth.

The Drakenstein Stud-bred Clouds Unfold is a first Gr1 winner for treble Equus champion sprinter What A Winter (Western Winter). She is out of Montelissima, a Montjeu half-sister to Listed Summer Juvenile Stakes winner Arria and Gr2 Senior Santa Stakes third Pivotal Pursuit.

Clouds Unfold's second dam Issa is a full-sister to unbeaten Yorkshire Oaks winner Catchascatchcan, dam of Breeders' Cup Mile winner and former Highlands Stud sire Antonius Pius.

The winner took her stakes bank to R1 458 125 with her sixth win from eight starts and 1 place.

She looks an exciting SA Champions Season prospect.

Gr1 Majorca Stakes (F&M) 1600m

Winner Clouds Unfold (best handicapped) raced 3rd last; ran on strongly to lead 200m; won well; jockey Domeyer was fined R3000 for making a celebratory gesture before the finish line

Runner-up Lady In Black (3rd best handicapped) raced 8th; ran on; hanging out 400m; outpaced late by winner

Third Front And Centre raced 4th and held every chance; ran on

Time: Although this was the third fastest of the seven races around the turn, the race was slowly run early before developing into a sprint in the straight. Result and ratings must be seen in that light. We gave the runner-up (prev 99/90/95/105/105) 103 which makes the winner (prev 90/90/93/91/105) 102 and the third (prev 79/89/97/95) 99

102	1	0.00	CLOUDS UNFOLD	(7)	55.0	A Domeyer	21/4
3 ch f	What A Winter - Montelissima(IRE) (Montjeu)						
103	2	1.50	LADY IN BLACK	(1)	60.0	S Veale	71/20
4 b f	Dynasty - Mystery Dame (Jet Master)						
99	3	1.70	FRONT AND CENTRE	(4)	55.0	A Marcus	17/10
3 b f	Dynasty - Alignment(IRE) (Alzao)						
101	4	2.45	Fresnaye	(6)	60.0	B Fayd/herbe	33/1
99	5	3.20	Snowdance	(11)	60.0	R Fourie	33/10
98	6	3.95	Rose In Bloom	(3)	60.0	K De Melo	50/1
95	7	5.20	Miyabi Gold	(8)	60.0	P Strydom	50/1
90	8	7.70	Love To Boogie	(12)	60.0	S Khumalo	50/1
87	9	8.95	Freedom Charter	(2)	60.0	L Hewitson	50/1
82	10	10.95	Sylvan On Fire	(5)	60.0	G Lerena	50/1
82	11	11.25	Fiorella	(10)	60.0	M Khan	33/1
80	12	12.25	Goodtime Gal	(9)	60.0	S Mbhele	44/1

Time: 98.06s (61.29s avg/1000m, or 59km/h) **SP Total %:** 116%

1st **T:**C Bass-Robinson **O:**Drakenstein Stud (Nom: Mrs G A Rupert)

B:Drakenstein Stud

On A Clear Day

Proving a popular banker, with the Pick 6 still managing to deliver a mouthwatering R131 325 dividend, the 3yo Clouds Unfold was ridden with confidence by regular pilot Aldo Domeyer, who dropped her in and shifted her inwards from her wide outside draw, as Casual Diamond and Anneka carted them along.

At the 40mm marker, Richard Fourie bounced the fast improving Juniper Spring into what looked a possible match winning lead grab.

But Domeyer was not flustered and he got the athletic chestnut gradually into stride on the middle outside strip and she lengthened beautifully to put 0,30 lengths between herself and the promising Snaith filly at the line.

The winner's time was 71,15 secs with her year older stable-mate Freedom Charter coming out of the pack a further 2,25 lengths away in third.

Fresh back from her successful Gauteng campaign, the ever gallant Rose In Bloom stayed on well for fourth.

The first filly to win the Cape Of Good Hope Nursery since Empress Crown ten years ago, the Drakenstein Stud-bred Clouds Unfold is a daughter of Equus champion sprinter What A Winter (Western Winter), out of Montelissima, a Montjeu half-sister to Listed Summer Juvenile Stakes winner Arria and Gr2 Senor Santa Stakes third Pivotal Pursuit.

Clouds Unfold's second dam Issa is a full-sister to unbeaten Yorkshire Oaks winner Catchascatchcan, dam of Breeders' Cup Mile winner and former Highlands Stud sire Antonius Pius.

The promising 3yo has won 5 races with 1 place from 7 starts for stakes of R833 125.

What A Winter has 12 lots on the Cape Premier Yearling Sale on 23 January.

Gr2 Sceptre Stakes (F&M) 1200m

Winner Clouds Unfold raced second-last, about three lengths behind the eventual runner-up; ran on strongly to lead 50m out and won well Runner-up Juniper Spring raced handy in 2nd; led 350m; pipped late Third Freedom Charter (3rd best handicapped) raced midfield; ran on

Time: Very tightly bunched early on, this was comfortably the fastest of the four sprint races.

We gave the third (prev 88/92/92/98/93) 97 which makes the winner (prev 71/90/90/93/91) 105 and the runner-up (prev 74/74/81/81/84) 102

105	1	0.00	CLOUDS UNFOLD	(19)	57.5	A Domeyer	19/10
3 ch f What A Winter - Montelissima(IRE) (Montjeu)							
102	2	0.30	JUNIPER SPRING	(2)	56.5	R Fourie	12/1
3 b f Captain Al - Spring Lilac (Joshua Dancer)							
97	3	2.55	FREEDOM CHARTER	(3)	60.0	B Fayd'herbe	13/1
4 ch f Elusive Fort - Betty Burke (Captain Al)							
96	4	2.95	Rose In Bloom	(16)	60.0	D Dillon	13/1
92	5	3.00	Mary O' Reilly	(10)	56.5	R Munger	18/1
93	6	3.75	Dynamic Diana	(13)	60.0	G Lerena	25/1
88	7	4.15	Nous Voila	(12)	56.5	A Marcus	11/2
89	8	4.90	Township Melody	(17)	60.0	S Khumalo	50/1
84	9	5.30	Carlita	(11)	56.5	C Orffer	10/1
82	10	5.80	Canukeepitsecret	(7)	56.5	S Mbhele	28/1
85	11	5.90	Anime	(15)	60.0	S Veale	55/1
80	12	6.20	Varsity Lover	(5)	56.5	R Simons	50/1
78	13	6.95	Anneka	(4)	56.5	L Hewitson	66/1
78	14	7.95	Casual Diamond	(1)	60.0	A Andrews	35/1
73	15	9.20	Too Phat To Fly	(6)	60.0	C Zackey	22/1
67	16	9.95	March Music	(9)	56.5	JP vd Merwe	66/1
55	17	13.20	Sweet Mary Lou	(14)	56.5	A Mgudlwa	100/1
36	18	18.45	Boss Babe	(18)	56.5	R Danielson	44/1
36	19	19.70	Angel's Trumpet	(8)	60.0	K De Melo	66/1

Time: 71.15s (59.29s avg/1000m, or 61km/h) **SP Total %:** 114%
1st **T:**C Bass-Robinson **O:**Drakenstein Stud (Nom: Mrs G A Rupert)
B:Drakenstein Stud

Cloudy To Fine!

The What A Winter filly Clouds Unfold showed that her sparkling Cape Nursery performance last term to hammer the boys was the start of bigger things to come.

The Drakenstein owned and bred chestnut was the first member of the fairer sex to beat the males in a decade in the Nursery and she cracked the bubbly on her 3yo season debut in style with an eye-catching win in the R400 000 Gr2 Western Cape Fillies Championship at Kenilworth on Saturday.

Boasting a pedigree with a fascinating balance of speed and stamina, Clouds Unfold grew wings in the final 300m of the Gr2 feature, run in stifling heat at the Southern Suburbs track.

Settled in running after a keen start, Clouds Unfold stormed up the centre of the track after Celestial Storm and Go The Distance had done the hard work, and she powered home at 6-1 to hold Gr2 winner Temple Grafin by a comfortable 1,25 lengths in a time of 83.51 secs – a faster clock than the boys.

It was a high quality field, despite the scratching of the exciting unbeaten Front And Centre and Mike de Kock raider, Firdoas, and there was naturally plenty of excitement with the Cape Fillies Guineas just over 7 weeks away.

A multiple stakes winner of 4 of her 5 starts, Clouds Unfold took her earnings to R483 125.

A daughter of Equus champion sprinter What A Winter (Western Winter), she is out of Montelissima, a Montjeu half-sister to Listed Summer Juvenile Stakes winner Arria and Gr2 Senor Santa Stakes third Pivotal Pursuit.

Clouds Unfold's second dam Issa is a full-sister to unbeaten Yorkshire Oaks winner Catchascatchcan, dam of Breeders' Cup Mile winner and former Highlands Stud sire Antonius Pius.

Gr2 Fillies Championship (3yo's) 1400m

Winner Clouds Unfold (3rd best handicapped) raced 5th; led 100m; won with some in hand

Runner-up Temple Grafin (2nd best handicapped) raced 3rd; led 200m; outpaced by winner

Third Santa Clara raced 9th; was 3 lengths behind the winner entering the straight; ran on

Time: An honest pace throughout, this comparatively was the fastest of the four races around the turn. We gave the 4th 81 which makes the winner (prev 81/71/90/90) 93, the runner-up (prev 81/81/91) 90 and the third (prev 75/80/83/84) 84

93	1	0.00	CLOUDS UNFOLD	(3)	60.0	A Domeyer	10/3
3 ch f What A Winter - Montelissima(IRE) (Montjeu)							
90	2	1.25	TEMPLE GRAFIN	(1)	60.0	A Marcus	57/20
3 ch f Duke Of Marmalade - Inner Temple (Greys Inn)							
84	3	3.25	SANTA CLARA	(10)	60.0	R Munger	28/1
3 ch f Duke Of Marmalade - Shina(GER) (Lomitas)							
81	4	4.00	Juniper Spring	(9)	60.0	R Fourie	31/4
81	5	4.30	Coral Bay	(8)	60.0	R Khathi	16/1
77	6	5.55	Go The Distance	(12)	60.0	A Andrews	15/1
77	7	5.60	Helen's Ideal	(5)	60.0	D Dillon	18/1
73	8	6.85	Shamrock Wind	(13)	60.0	C Orffer	22/1
66	9	9.10	Nous Voila	(4)	60.0	B Fayd'herbe	15/1
59	10	11.35	Canukeepitsecret	(2)	60.0	G Cheyne	6/1
56	11	12.60	Varsity Lover	(7)	60.0	K De Melo	22/1
53	12	13.60	Anneka	(6)	60.0	L Hewitson	11/1
51	13	14.00	Celestial Storm	(11)	60.0	G Behr	44/1

Time: 83.51s (59.65s avg/1000m, or 60km/h) **SP Total %:** 121%
1st **T:**C Bass-Robinson **O:**Drakenstein Stud (Nom: Mrs G A Rupert)
B:Drakenstein Stud

Skywalking!

The Drakenstein Stud owned and bred Clouds Unfold became the first filly to win the R200 000 Gr3 Cape Of Good Hope Nursery in a decade when she produced a double for her sire as she trounced the boys at Kenilworth on Saturday.

Drakenstein based What A Winter also produced both winners of last year's Cape Nurseries, with Magical Wonderland and Dutch Philip coming out on top.

And it was Candice Bass-Robinson who was the trainer on Saturday again – even though her duo of Nous Voila and Santa Clara had no answers for the Kotzen's Coral Bay in the fillies event a half hour earlier.

Clouds Unfold, a winner of 2 of her 3 starts, was trying the 1200m for the first time and made no mistakes, dealing her six male opponents a galloping lesson.

Allowed to relax at the rear early on by Aldo Domeyer, the 2-1 Clouds Unfold was brought into the lead at the 200m and went on powerfully to hold off a late dash from recent Snaith maiden winner Seventh Sea by 3 lengths in a time of 75.05 secs.

The 17-10 favourite Arabian Air ran an inexplicably poor race to finish last. The Stipes report will tell us more.

Clouds Unfold's pedigree is an interesting mixture of speed and stamina.

A daughter of Equus champion sprinter What A Winter (Western Winter), she is out of Montelissima, a Montjeu half-sister to Listed Summer Juvenile Stakes winner Arria and Gr2 Senor Santa Stakes third Pivotal Pursuit.

Clouds Unfold's second dam Issa is a full-sister to unbeaten Yorkshire Oaks winner Catchascatchcan, dam of Breeders' Cup Mile winner and former Highlands Stud sire Antonius Pius.

She has won 3 races from 4 starts for stakes of R233 125.

Gr3 Cape Of Good Hope Nursery 1200m

Winner Clouds Unfold (best handicapped) raced at the back early on some three lengths off the pace; pushed out to lead 300m; won with plenty in hand

Runner-up Seventh Sea raced in the rear; ran on, but no impression on winner

Third Mr Crumford raced fourth; well beaten

Time: The pace was not quick and just four lengths covered all going through the 500m; although the race was run 1.45 seconds faster than the false paced Kenilworth Fillies Nursery, the time was not a fast one. We gave the third (prev 57/84/75) 82 which makes the winner (prev 79/69/88) 88 and the runner-up (prev 46/69/73/73//79) 85

88	1	0.00	CLOUDS UNFOLD	(5)	57.5	A Domeyer	2/1
2 ch f What A Winter - Montelissima(IRE) (Montjeu)							
85	2	3.00	SEVENTH SEA	(3)	60.0	R Munger	31/4
2 b g Seventh Rock - Schism (Count Dubois)							
82	3	4.25	MR CRUMFORD	(6)	60.0	G Cheyne	9/1
2 b c Jackson - Sovereign Flo (Captain Al)							
77	4	6.00	Watch Me Dad	(1)	60.0	R Khathi	31/4
74	5	7.25	Lucky Dancer	(4)	60.0	F Herholdt	15/1
73	6	7.45	Sailor Sam	(7)	60.0	M Winnaar	22/1
65	7	10.45	Arabian Air	(2)	60.0	D Dillon	17/10

Time: 75.05s (62.54s avg/1000m, or 58km/h) **SP Total %:** 114%
1st **T:**C Bass-Robinson **O:**Drakenstein Stud (Nom: Mrs G A Rupert)
B:Drakenstein Stud

MJ's Kuda Thriller

The Milnerton combination of Vaughan Marshall and MJ Byleveld celebrated an early success on Sun Met day when first-timer Agent Of Fortune got the better of a duel with the favourite Cirillo to win the R350 000 Kuda Sprint.

The colt's ability outshone his lack of fitness and experience and when MJ Byleveld brought him alongside Anthony Delpech on the more experience Cirillo at the 300m marker, we had a spectacle on our hands – that ended unexpectedly!

Agent Of Fortune dug deep and got his nose down when it counted. Had he not won, an objection would probably have followed.

The winner's time was 74,05 secs.

Bred by V Kritzinger, the winner is a first second crop stakes winner for What A Winter (Western Winter) and is out of six-time winner, Sofala (Jet Master). He is thus a half-brother to the well-performed six-time Western Force(Western Winter.

A triple Equus Champion and four time Gr1 winner, Agent Of Fortune's sire What A Winter ended his first season last term with his 10 juvenile winners having earned R1 472 750 – which placed him narrowly atop the first crop sires list, ahead of European stars Oratorio and Twice Over.

Agent Of Fortune is his fourth stakes winner and originally sold for R240 000 on the 2017 CTS March Yearling Sale.

He banked R218 750 on Saturday for owners Bryn Ressel and Marsh Shirtliff.

Kuda Sprint (2yo's) (nbt) 1200m

Winner Agent Of Fortune (Marshall newcomer 11/1) raced in midfield early; struck the front along with the runner-up 350m out; bumped and unbalanced by the runner-up twice in the latter stages; won a tremendous battle as they both drew clear, by a short head
Runner-up Cirillo raced in the back rank early; challenged strongly over the final 350m; beaten a short head
Third Rivonia Boulevard raced up with the pace throughout; no chance with first two final 350m

Time: This was by far the slowest of the six sprint races. We gave the runner-up (prev 75) 79 which makes the winner 79 and the third (prev 63) 64

79	1	0.00	AGENT OF FORTUNE	(9)	60.0	M Byleveld	11/1
2 b c What A Winter - Sofala (Jet Master)							
79	2	0.05	CIRILLO	(7)	60.0	A Delpech	26/10
2 b c Pomodoro - Miss Wordsworth (Lake Coniston)							
64	3	5.55	RIVONIA BOULEVARD	(15)	60.0	L Hewitson	11/1
2 gr c Count Dubois - Tibetan Stone (National Assembly)							
59	4	7.30	Quick Star	(10)	60.0	R Fourie	4/1
59	5	7.40	Lucky Dancer	(11)	60.0	A Marcus	9/2
53	6	7.60	Urban Oasis	(14)	57.5	C Orffer	18/1
56	7	8.35	Vartanium	(5)	60.0	R Danielson	75/1
53	8	9.60	Super Dino	(3)	60.0	G v Niekerk	10/1
43	9	11.10	Rocket Girl	(6)	57.5	S Veale	66/1
49	10	11.15	Lets Be Frank	(16)	60.0	L Mxothwa	66/1
42	11	11.65	Queen Of The Dance	(13)	57.5	C Zackey	22/1
47	12	11.95	Blackbeard	(2)	60.0	A Andrews	36/1
46	13	12.15	Seventh Sea	(2)	60.0	B Lerena	36/1
35	14	14.15	Star Angel	(1)	57.5	R Khathi	100/1
34	15	16.40	Mkhonto	(8)	60.0	G Cheyne	55/1
34	16	16.60	Wonderful Winter	(4)	60.0	A Domeyer	22/1

Time: 74.05s (61.71s avg/1000m, or 58km/h) **SP Total %:** 118%
1st **T:**VH Marshall **O:**Mayfair Speculators (Pty) Ltd (Nom: Mr D L Brugman) & Messrs Bryn Ressel & N M Shirtliff **B:**V Kritzinger

Magic Millions

The What A Winter colt Dutch Philip boosted his career earnings to over R4 million when he trounced his rivals with a storming late run to win the \$500 000 CTS 1200 at Kenilworth on Saturday.

The son of What A Winter confirmed his status as the officially highest-rated galloper in the field to score a terrific win under the in-form Grant van Niekerk – who won this race last year on Live Life for the same stable.

With a first cheque of R3 734 375, it was a great race for larger-than-life Cape owner Marsh Shirtliff, who also has shares in the third placed Magical Wonderland and fourth-placed finisher, Sand And Sea. He and Bryn Ressel also own Undercover Agent who won the Kuda Sprint earlier.

Grant Van Niekerk had Dutch Philip relaxed early and he produced the gutsy speedster at the 300m with a sweeping run up the outside. Bernard Fayd'herbe looked to be moving through ominously on the Snaith's Kasimir down the inside, but they had no answer to Dutch Philip who went on to win by a half length in a time of 72,51 secs.

Dutch Philip is a R460 000 CTS March Yearling Sale graduate and was bred by Rex Stud. He is out of the versatile five-time winning Dominion Royale mare, Uppity Ann. He now heads for the Cape Classic at Kenilworth on 28 October.

A dual stakes winner with a very bright future, Dutch Philip has now banked R4 140 850 from his 5 wins with 3 places from 10 starts.

The CTS 1200 (3yo's) (nbt) 1200m

Winner Dutch Philip (joint best handicapped) was positioned second last at 600m; ran on best to lead 60m; shifted in sharply away from the crop latter stages; won going away
 Runner-up Kasimir raced alongside Magical Wonderland in midfield; led 100m; no chance with winner
 Third Magical Wonderland raced alongside Kasimir in midfield; ran on

Time: Although marginally only the fourth fastest of the six sprints, the time was a fair one. We gave the third (prev 87/96/91/88/93) 91 which makes the winner (prev 90/92/96/101/83) 103 and the runner-up (prev 76/83/83/88/96) 102

103	1	0.00	DUTCH PHILIP	(18)	60.0	G v Niekerk	167/20
3 b c What A Winter - Uppy Ann (Dominion Royale)							
102	2	0.50	KASIMIR	(10)	60.0	B Fayd'herbe	71/20
3 b c Captain Al - Aquatint(AUS) (Peintre Celebre)							
91	3	2.00	MAGICAL WONDERLAND	(12)	57.5	A Domeyer	11/10
3 b f What A Winter - Magical Miss (Al Mufti)							
92	4	3.25	Sand And Sea	(11)	60.0	A Marcus	31/4
91	5	3.35	Speedpoint	(1)	60.0	R Fourie	25/1
85	6	3.65	Best Kept Secret	(13)	57.5	M Yeni	100/1
86	7	4.90	Woljayrine	(17)	60.0	M Byleveld	25/1
81	8	6.15	Dollar Tractor	(16)	60.0	C Orffer	100/1
74	9	6.65	Green Plains	(5)	57.5	L Hewitson	30/1
73	10	6.95	Sassy Lady	(8)	57.5	C Murray	75/1
78	11	7.15	So Var	(7)	60.0	K De Melo	66/1
61	12	10.15	Desert Rhythm	(2)	57.5	P Strydom	44/1
65	13	10.55	Big Mistake	(15)	60.0	G Cheyne	75/1
65	13	10.55	What A Winner	(3)	60.0	R Khathi	55/1
59	15	12.30	Magic Sailor	(14)	60.0	S Veale	55/1
55	16	13.55	Dynasty's Boy	(4)	60.0	G Behr	100/1
42	17	15.55	Distant Call	(9)	57.5	R Danielson	100/1

Time: 72.51s (60.43s avg/1000m, or 60km/h) **SP Total %:** 117%
 1st T:C Bass-Robinson O:Mayfair Speculators (Pty) Ltd
 (Nom: Mr D L Brugman) & Messrs Bryn Ressel & N M Shirtliff B:Rex Stud

Magical Miss

The Candice Bass-Robinson team enjoyed a red-letter afternoon, amidst a wave of blue and white, on the opening day of the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate Festival Of Racing at Kenilworth – with their star What A Winter filly Magical Wonderland rounding off a cracking feature race double.

After being hammered by boom 3yo Snowdance in the Cape Fillies Guineas last month, it made sense for a back to basic manoeuvre for Magical Wonderland, last season's Cape Racing's Juvenile Filly of The Year.

Freshened up and reverting to her favourite track and trip, Aldo Domeyer had the beautiful filly – racing for the first time in the Bryn Ressel silks – well off the gallop set by Green Plains and Shufoog.

The race appeared wide open at just under the halfway marker. But looking as if she had sprouted wings, Magical Wonderland scythed between runners at the 300m pole.

She put her ears back and under a hands ride – with Aldo Domeyer glancing around – she bounded clear to score a facile geared-down two length success in a time of 71,95 secs.

Magical Wonderland's win was a peak success to date for Drakenstein stallion What A Winter, officially South Africa's Leading First Crop Sire for 2016-2017.

The triple Equus Champion, a four-time Gr1 winner, was trained by Mike Bass in his racing days and Magical Wonderland's success must be regarded an emotional milestone all round for the Bass family.

A R450 000 Cape Premier Yearling Sale graduate, Magical Wonderland has won 5 races with 1 place from 7 starts for stakes of R667 500. She was recently purchased by her original partners Marsh Shirtliff and Bryn Ressel out of the Mayfair Speculators dissolution of racing interests.

Bred by Maine Chance Farms, the winner is out of the unraced Magical Miss (Al Mufti).

Gr2 Sceptre S. R400.000 1200m

Winner Magical Wonderland ran on from midfield, to win hands and heels

Rose In Bloom ran on from off the pace, but had no chance with the winner

Princess Peach ran on from a handy position

This looks to have been a true run sprint, and was by far the fastest of the races up the straight. We gave the runner-up (80-85-86-86-86-85) 86, which makes the winner (74/86/87/96/91/88) 93 and the third finisher (85-79-87-81-80-81) 82

93	1	0.00	MAGICAL WONDERLAND	(4)	54.5	A Domeyer	7/2
3 b f What A Winter - Magical Miss (Al Mufti)							
86	2	2.00	ROSE IN BLOOM	(13)	54.5	M Seidl	36/1
3 b f Gimmetheregreenlight - Raise The Bar (Goldkeeper)							
82	3	3.25	PRINCESS PEACH	(11)	54.5	R Fourie	36/1
3 b f Captain Al - Princess Tobin (Badger Land)							
81	4	3.45	Angel's Trumpet	(14)	54.5	G v Niekerk	25/1
83	5	4.45	Jo's Bond	(9)	59.0	B Fayd'herbe	16/1
83	6	4.65	Live Life	(3)	59.0	G Cheyne	6/1
79	7	4.95	Anneline	(7)	58.0	C Zackey	55/1
77	8	5.05	Green Plains	(6)	55.5	L Hewitson	16/1
82	9	5.45	Just Sensual	(10)	60.0	A Marcus	7/2
76	10	5.85	Nordic Breeze	(5)	58.0	M Byleveld	45/1
73	11	6.60	Weston	(2)	58.0	C Murray	55/1
73	12	6.70	Sommerlied	(15)	58.0	S Veale	12/1
66	13	7.45	Shufoog	(12)	54.5	JP vd Merwe	6/1
69	14	7.50	Desert Rhythm	(1)	55.5	C Orffer	19/1
69	15	7.70	Felicity Flyer	(16)	58.0	R Khathi	36/1
0	16	99.99	Hoist The Mast	(8)	58.0	D Dillon	16/1

Time: 71.95s (59.96s avg/1000m, or 60km/h) **SP Total %:** 121%
 1st T:C Bass-Robinson O:Mayfair Speculators (Pty) Ltd (Nom: Mr D L Brugman)
 & Messrs Bryn Ressel & N M Shirtliff B:Maine Chance