



RACING THIS WEEKEND

FAIRVIEW poly Friday
Best Roving Banker:
r9 - (3) Ace Antonius (3/1)

GREYVILLE poly Friday
Best Roving Banker:
r3 - (5) Lunar Rush (5/2)

KENILWORTH Saturday
Best Roving Banker:
r7-(4) Jabu (5/2)

TURFFONTEIN Saturday
Best Roving Banker:
r7 - (2) Captain's Causeway (3/1)

GREYVILLE Sunday
Best Roving Banker:
r3 - (11) Diamante (3/1)

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A Happy New Year

Gauteng Guineas winner Heaps Of Fun looks overdue to win again | *Gold Circle*

Gr3 Flamboyant Stakes - Greyville

The New Year kicks off on a high note at Greyville on Sunday with this race for fillies and mares. Local hopes will lie with the 2016 top two, Olma and Lala – a repeat-finish between these two might make the race commentator sound like someone who had a few too many on the eve of a happy new year.

Whether these local hopes will be able to contain the strong challenge from up North is another thing. Gauteng raiders have a good record in this weight-for-age plus penalties contest, run over the Greyville turf mile. Penalties are 3kg for a Gr1 win, 2kg for Gr2 and 1kg for Gr3 wins. Penalties are once-off, and not cumulative.

Twelve months ago Olma gave Lala 5kg and a two length beating in this race, then won a polytrack handicap and ran a course-and-distance cracker when beaten a half length by Inara in the Gr1 Garden Province Stakes in July. She pulled up lame after her last start over the mile at Scottsville.

In contrast to Olma, the year younger Lala has shown good recent form. She has drawn very wide though.

Gauteng Fillies Guineas winner Heaps Of Fun has not won in ten months. She was almost 3 lengths behind Inara in the Garden Province, and some two lengths off Bela-Bela in the Woolavington. She showed plenty of toe at her last start over 1200m, and could be ready to win again.

Fort Ember has won 4 of her 8 starts to date.

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the best over the festive
season and thank them for
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GREYVILLE ON SUNDAY

She won three on the trot before placing in the Gr2 Ipi Tombe Challenge, and had a nice prep three weeks ago behind Patchit Up Baby.

Dawn Calling came out of her 2yo season as the unlucky bridesmaid – with second places in the Gr1 Thekwini and the Gr2 Golden Slipper. She remains a one-time winner and was well beaten in the Cape Fillies Guineas behind Just Sensual. Dawn Calling enjoys the best of the draws here and gets a chance to redeem herself.

Impala Lily has enjoyed a short break since conceding 4kg and disposing of Dawn Attack last time out. She has yet to show herself to be effective at the mile.

Morne Winnaar has stepped into the Anthony Delpech boots at Dean Kannemeyer's yard with aplomb, and gets the ride on Miss Minver. One of only two 3yo's in the race, she has won 4 from 7 starts – on both surfaces – and goes for a fourth straight win on the trot. She could well be better than rated.

There's no short-priced favourite in sight. That's a pity, because they have a good record in this

race and finding a winner will be hard now. Exotic backers will note that historically very long-priced runners often manage to get in the places in this race.

Gr3 Flamboyant S. past winners

2013	
1 Viva Maria	60.0 (4) 18/10
2 Keep On Dreaming	60.0 (5) 40/1
3 Chosen Goddess	52.0 (7) 10/1
2014	
1 Classic Illusion	60.0 (7) 9/2
2 Murmuring Sky	60.0 (4) 7/1
3 Orange Blossom	60.0 (10) 6/1
2015	
1 Same Jurisdiction	56.0 (3) 9/10
2 Goldie Coast	60.0 (8) 25/1
3 Admiral's Eye	60.0 (5) 7/2
2016	
1 Olma	60.0 (4) 16/10
2 Lala	55.0 (6) 10/1
3 Cassie O'Malley	60.0 (7) 33/1

START
4:00PM
GREYVILLE

7

PA5/PICK SIX4/JACKPOT3
Gr3 FLAMBOYANT STAKES (F&M) - 1600M
SAME TRAINER:(5-10-13)(7-8-12)

Visionaire	1 HEAPS OF FUN(SG Tarry) A Marcus.....	6	60.0
Dynasty	2 OLMA(F Robinson) M v Rensburg.....	11	59.0
Visionaire	3 LALA(D Campbell) A Mgudiwa.....	13	58.0
Elusive Fort	4 FORT EMBER(PA Peter) L Hewitson.....	9	58.0
Trippi	5 IMPALA LILY(D Kannemeyer) A Forbes.....	7	58.0
Ideal World	6 WORK ETHIC(G v Zyl) T Godden.....	4	58.0
Black Minnaloushe	7 LITTLEBLACKNUMBER(D Howells) J Samuel.....	5	58.0
Judpot	8 CRACKPOT(DC Howells) R Munger.....	12	58.0
Just As Well	9 WELL IN FLIGHT(DR Drier) M Yeni.....	2	58.0
Judpot	10 PLAYBOY BUDDY(D Kannemeyer) D Daniels.....	10	58.0
Ideal World	11 MUSIC WORLD(Belinda Impey) Wes Marwing.....	3	58.0
Trippi	12 DAWN CALLING(DC Howells) ES Ngwane.....	1	53.0
Dynasty	13 MISS MINVER(D Kannemeyer) M Winnaar.....	8	53.0

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TURFFONTEIN ON SATURDAY

River Dance

Gr3 Lebelo Sprint - Turffontein

This 1000m sprint brings the curtain down on 2016. Mike Azzie



The classy Var colt Rivarine looks set for a big run on New Year's Eve | Gold Circle

will be hoping to crack open an early bottle of bubbly with his 3yo colt Rivarine ending the year on a high. He bolted and was withdrawn from his last scheduled engagement in the Golden Loom on Charity Mile day, but on his

form as a leading 2yo could put this to bed if he behaves.

Sean Tarry's Captain's Causeway has his eighth career start and is set for his fifth win if things go his way. He came back strongly after a six month rest to beat Pivotal Pursuit, who subsequently franked the form with a win at the Vaal on Tuesday.

Paul Peter's African Ruler carries top weight and gets the services of Andrew Fortune (regular rider Gavin Lerena is on Greasepaint). African Ruler had every chance at his penultimate start in the Golden Loom when less than 2 lengths behind winner Bull Valley.

Greasepaint scored a long overdue win – his first in over a year – at his last start after knocking on the door for ages. He meets Seattle Singer, whom he beat a short head there, on a half kilo better terms so there should be little between them again.

Alec Laird's Dollar Dazzler is a talented 6yo but his formline tells a story of a horse with problems. He has failed to recapture his

earlier smart form and has not visited the winner's enclosure since April 2015. He showed pace last time before fading to more than

START
3:45PM
TURFFONTEIN

7

PA6/PICK SIX5/JACKPOT4
Gr3 LEBELO SPRINT - 1000M
SAME TRAINER:(5-8)(6-10)

Trippi	1 AFRICAN RULER(PA Peter) A Fortune.....	3	61.5
Captain Al	2 CAPTAIN'S CAUSEWAY(SG Tarry) S Khumalo.....	4	60.5
Var	3 DOLLAR DAZZLER(AG Laird) R Simons.....	6	60.5
Kahal	4 GREASEPAINT(RR Magner) G Lerena.....	5	56.0
Var	5 RIVARINE(MG Azzie) L Hewitson.....	10	53.5
Great Britain	6 WRECKING BALL(G Maroun) C Zackey.....	7	53.5
Battersea Park	7 MANX PARK(C Binda) L Lester.....	9	53.5
Var	8 EASY GAME(MG Azzie) D Mansour.....	1	53.0
Sail From Seattle	9 SEATTLE SINGER(C Spies) M Yeni.....	2	52.0
Great Britain	10 QUEEN LAURIE(G Maroun) R Munger.....	8	52.0

Gr3 Lebelo Sprint past winners

2013	
1 Royal Zulu Warrior	52.0 (8) 11/2
2 Gold Site	54.0 (2) 40/1
3 Valberg	56.0 (7) 2/1
2014	
1 Jade Bay	57.5 (16) 10/1
2 She's A Stunner	56.0 (10) 14/1
3 Miss October	58.5 (3) 8/1
2015	
1 Trip Tease	61.0 (8) 5/2
2 Trip To Heaven	56.0 (10) 3/1
2 Tiger Territory	52.0 (4) 8/1
2016	
1 Viking Hero	54.0 (6) 12/1
2 Tiger Territory	58.5 (2) 5/1
3 Mod Barley	56.5 (7) 7/2

The full cards for Weekend Racing with ratings & tips
can be purchased [here](#)

TURFFONTEIN ON SATURDAY

5 lengths behind Trip To Heaven in the Gr2 Joburg Merchants last time out.

Manx Park has shown signs of breathing problems and his recent form suggests that he could battle to assert himself here. He is 1.5kg better off with Greasepaint for a 3 length beating at their last start.

Easy Game campaigns in the Avontuur silks these days, in advance of her stud career. She faded tamely in the Gardenia Stakes last time out, but prior to that put in a good effort when beaten two lengths by Wrecking Ball in receipt of 5.5kg. Easy Game is 5kg better off with the younger Wrecking Ball here.

The lightning fast Wrecking Ball comes in 1.5kg better off with Captain's Causeway for a 1.50 length beating over 1160m last time.

Rounding up, things have not always gone Rivarine's way – witness his four career seconds. That could change this time. His major challenges look to be the unexposed Captain's Causeway and topweight African Ruler.

Alistair Cohen – Golf Day



The South African horseracing community was shocked to learn recently that one of its brightest young stars had fallen ill.

Alistair Cohen wrote on twitter on Christmas Eve: "Today I got the worst news of my life. Was diagnosed with cancer. I will be on the long list of survivors at the end of this."

Justin Vermaak of Greenstreet Bloodstock is arranging a Golf Day to raise funds at Blair Atholl

in Centurion on Friday 3 February.

Hole sponsorships and four-balls will be sold.

Anybody interested in helping or getting involved in any way can contact Justin on 072 623 7994 or on email at:

justin@greenstreetbloodstock.co.za

The Sporting Post wishes Alistair Cohen and his family every strength at this testing time and we support these very generous efforts.

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2016 The Year That Was

Mumm's The Word

J&B missed an opportunity by jumping ship after 39 years of sponsorship for the Met. But one man's loss is another man's gain, as Sun International showed by securing the sponsorship for 2017 and beyond.



... and they're off! The launch of the new 2017 Sun Met showed much promise.

The last Saturday in January will be an event of note, with the Sun Met now worth R5 million. Also featured are three Million Rand Gr1 races (Cape Flying Championship, Majorca Stakes, and Investec Derby), two \$500,000 sale-races for 3yo's, and a R1 million sale race for 2yo's. Total stakes for the day are R10 million plus \$1 million – SA's richest raceday, ever.

The Sun Met is co-sponsored by Mum, the world's leading champagne.

Queen for a Day

The year kicked off on 9 January with the sumptuousness that is the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate. Legal Eagle made easy work of the day's main feature, with additional highlights including a triumphant return to the Cape for Alec Laird with super filly, Smart Call winning the Gr1 Paddock Stakes.

Day of Dreams

23 January saw the inaugural CTS Day of Dreams, which also hosted the freshly moved Cape Derby and Majorca Stakes. The Majorca Stakes was won for the second time by Inara and despite a sea of the green and gold in the parade ring, the inaugural CTS Million Dollar delivered a fairytale when Glen Puller Racing, the only 'small' yard granted a starting booth, appeared out of nowhere with Illuminator to grab the prize, last minute jockey change and all!

Degrading

January brought news that all of the Golden Horseshoe, Golden Slipper SA Oaks and Gold Cup were being downgraded to Gr2's. The reason? The Asian Pattern Committee, who have in fact deemed SA' number of Gr1's 'excessive', have recommended that we cut this down to no more than 25 across the board.

Bold Move

Horse of the Year Legal Eagle may have been the main man on the track, but he was firmly put into his place by Smart Call in the J&B Met. The official handicapper rated the filly MR 121 and Legal Eagle 120 on their efforts in that race.



Following her sensational J&B Met win, Smart Call was sent to England to be prepared for a tilt at a Breeder's Cup race in California in November. A bold move by owner Jessica Slack and trainer Alec Laird, which was sadly scuppered by Smart Call going lame.

They're trying again in 2017 | *W Marks*

The Upper Hand

Mayfair Speculators set a new SA yearling record when bidding to R6 million at the CTS Cape Premier Yearling Sale in January for a Silvano colt bred by Drakenstein Stud.

The youngster's dam National Banker is a Gr3 winner by Fort Wood, out of a full sister to champion Arabian Lass. Internationally, Mayfair was active as well, notably with buying yearlings in partnership with Coolmore Stud in Ireland.

Bombay Duck

If ever there was Opulence and Excess, it was at the 36th Asian Racing Conference held in January in Mumbai, attended by 650 delegates from all over the racing world. India's best from Bollywood entertained and made all the waiters swoon.



Caught on camera by China delegate Wen Li: Karel Miedema shows the finer points of how horses gallop, to the amusement of moderator Bill Nader, IFHA's Brian Kavanagh, and (obscured) Timeform's Simon Rowlands and Hong Kong's senior handicapper Nigel Gray. On the right, Bangalore Turf Club's chief handicapper Mr B Shivaprasad is having a rest.

There were work sessions, too: fifty speakers took the stage, including two from South African. Summerhill's Mick Goss made the case for simplifying export protocols, Sporting Post's Karel Miedema explained to the world why and how handicapping works.

2016 The Year That Was

NHA Rule 62.2

When jockey's mess with the NHA's Rule 62.2 (and in particular sections 1/2/3), racing's reputation suffers big time – as do punters, if flurries of media activity is to be taken seriously.

For reference, here is the part of the Rule which deals with not riding horses out in the way jockeys are supposed to.

62.2 The RIDER of a HORSE shall:-

62.2.1 take all reasonable and permissible measures throughout a RACE to ensure that his HORSE is given a full opportunity to win or to obtain the best possible placing;

62.2.2 ride his HORSE in a competent and professional manner;

62.2.3 ride his HORSE out to the end of a RACE to the satisfaction of the STIPENDIARY STEWARDS; [Amended 24.10.2016]

Interesting is the amendment made to 62.2.3, which is dated 24 October and introduces an element of discretion.

During 2016, less than ten jockeys fell foul of the Rule, with punishments varying from a fine of R2500 to lengthy suspensions.

The worst offenders were Khumalo and Penny, who both showed up twice in NHA press releases.

Khumalo got 2 weeks for an infringement of 62.2.3 at the Vaal in March, on Dagoon. That was followed by breaking 62.2.1 on Captain Courteous at Fairview in June. The NHA took its time with an investigation into that very obvious offense (Khumalo, who was on his way to become champion jockey in July, had pleaded guilty), and finally settled on a 60 days suspension.

Penny got ten days for a ride at Flamingo Park in April under 62.2.3 (he pleaded guilty), and then a hefty 45 days for infringing the same Rule at the Vaal in September, despite a not-guilty plea.

Super Sad Saturday

South African horseracing experienced one of its darkest moments of 2016 when the Stipendiary Stewards upheld a frivolous objection at Turffontein on 3 September.

The Ormond Ferraris trained Querari Viking was a convincing winner beating

the Mike Azzie-trained first-timer Nordic Storm by 1,10 lengths. After reviewing the start and the race itself, jockey Karl Zechner lodged an objection which was bizarrely upheld.

Messrs Thulani Khanyile and Gareth Timm were subsequently charged with and found guilty of contraventions of the NHA Disciplinary Employment Code. After considering the impact that the objection decision had on the reputation of the NHA and the Industry at large, both officials were demoted.

Many questions remain unanswered.

Such A Scandal



Scandal wins at Fairview

The Fairview and South African 1000m record was broken twice in 2016. The Muhtafal filly Scandal bolted home on 2 December to win the Glendore Sprint. The turf track record was shattered just ten months earlier by Blizzard Belle, who set 54,55 secs.

Northern Light!

Winning Form – sponsored jockey Muzi Yeni was crowned Northern Cape champion jockey for the fourth consecutive season in August. Consistently the busiest jockey in the country, he rode in 4861 races nationally over those four seasons.



Muzi Yeni

One And Only

Tellytrack CEO Rob Scott announced that the racing channel would only be utilising one presenter on course with effect from 1 October. The decision was met with mixed response. It is difficult to assess the upside – other than a saving on the expenses budget. But then they have employed Dominic Zaki and Neil Andrews in two newly created posts. There has been no discernible improvement in their product.

Global View

The announcement that the International Thoroughbred Breeders Federation Congress is coming to South Africa was seen as a major boon to promoting our prospects on the world stage. The event is taking place on 8 and 9 January 2017. The two day open veterinary forum boasts an international line-up of speakers.

Golden Moves

In March Gold Circle announced the appointment of Raf Sheik as Racing Executive to take over from Graeme Hawkins, who was made Marketing Executive. Sheik's position as head of the National Racing Bureau was taken over by Aven Sewpersad.



Gold Circle's Raf Sheik

Stakes Cakes

Gr1 or no, April brought news that the Premier's Champions Challenge (formerly known as the President's Champions Challenge) would be the country's richest open thoroughbred race, scheduled for 30 April (Champions Day) over 2000m at Turffontein. The race, previously run for R2 million has been increased to R4 million, pushing total stakes on Champions day up to R10million. Hot on the heels of

2016 The Year That Was

this announcement comes news that the Vodacom Durban July is increased to R4.25 million for 2016. New sponsor Sun International trumps the lot, hoiking the Met stake to a whopping R5 million. Of course, sadly all of these pale in comparison to the CTS Million Dollar sales races, to be run on Met day 2017.

N.H. HEY?

With the sudden departure of Denzil Pillay, Colin Hall went from zero to hero, plucked from relative administrative

obscurity to occasionally 'acting' CEO (job titles are so tricky). But it was a case of now you see him, now you don't as after 30 odd years of keeping his seat warm, he vanished into



NHA's Lyndon Barends

racing's Bermuda Triangle- perhaps he might find the elusive Stakes Agreement while he's there. We saw the appointment of new man Lyndon Barends as CEO. Or is it MD? What is that man's job title anyway?

Either way, he'd hardly got his feet under the desk before he was facing the scrapping of the Benevolent Fund, Cobalt postives, a boxing match at Turffontein, Thulani's spectacular day at Turffontein, whopping fines for Paul Peter, revised penalty schedules and a revolt from the trainers and jockeys. Yet our intrepid man still found time for NHA roadshows and monthly newsletters.

Really?

Also in our regulatory highlights came lots of new rules, including changes to racehorse retirement protocols (rule 41.7) and jocks not being allowed at licensed gambling facilities. Try and figure that one out. But the Operators weren't far behind, simply tweaking their conditions to allow

for branding to be put on saddle cloths. So it seems there are dress codes for the horses now too !

Sectional Timing

Who knows?! And what ARE those weird things being put into and taken out of saddle cloths in Phum country ? Answers on a postcard.

Evil Eyes

Leading racehorse owner Adriaan van Vuuren, whose orange-and-black silks were made famous by Triple Crown winner Abashiri, announced on Facebook after the Vodacom Durban July that he and wife Rika would be leaving the sport of horseracing. Van Vuuren wrote that he and his family had been hurt by the 'evil eyes' of the media, following his decision to run Abashiri in the Vodacom Durban July. The horse ran unplaced. They reduced their string substantially at the BSA November Mixed Sale.



Abashiri

Jarred's Back

On 2 October Jarred Samuel makes his back to the winner's enclosure after an awful fall at Greyville on 4 December 2015.

Karl's Snarl

Triple Crown jock comes in for stick (panicked in Derby, says Mike Azzie). Is on, then off, then back on for July as connections play musical jockeys with him and Doug Whyte.



Karl Zechner

On The Move

Bernard and the Snaiths part company, Richard Fourie cuts short his HK stint to take up Snaith job, then leaves Snaiths to freelance. Bernard goes to Mauritius and then Dubai.



Richard Fourie

Delpech – Up And Down

Anthony Delpech leaves Mike de Kock and is sponsored by Wilgerbosdrift / Mauritzfontein instead. With Weichong still indisposed, Anthony cracks the nod to ride Smart Call in her UK debut, the Gr1 Sun Chariot. Unfortunately Smart Call scratches last minute and her international campaign is put on hold for the year. Anthony ends the year with a broken collar bone after falling at Turffontein.

Avontuur Coup

Astute Avontuur Stud management snap up our up and coming apprentices – Callan Murray and Lyle Hewitson as Avontuur brand ambassadors.

SA Abroad

Cold As Ice, Harry's Son, Same Jurisdiction and Smart Call campaign abroad. Mayfair Speculators win the Gr2 Prix de Royallieu on Arc weekend at Chantilly with The Juliet Rose. Jeff Lloyd comes back from a stroke to win the Brisbane championship and notch a record-breaking 7 Metro wins at the Sunshine Coast. Doug Whyte wins a second Aussie Gr1. Gavin Lerena posts 2 wins at Ascot helping the Rest of the Word team win the Shergar Cup. Defends his title at the Longines HK Jockey Challenge, but it's not to be.

Dual SA / Zim Champ apprentice (has this ever been achieved before?) Callan Murray goes on a Busman's holiday to Australia, to ride for Hall Of Fame trainer David Hayes.

2016 The Year That Was

Tellytrack

At the first meeting of the new year, miscommunication from Tellytrack re a race review at Fairview causes consternation when information is not disseminated to punters. Rob Scott, Tellytrack CEO, refreshingly takes responsibility and tenders an apology. However, it's all downhill from there. Winning Ways mysteriously goes missing for two weeks and is suddenly reinstated, Molly is axed, Shaheen Shaw resigns, Alistair Cohen is drafted in to call PE racing from Rivonia as a 'new initiative' to maintain consistency for international customers', (although Bumpy still calls on-course). Julie Alexander and Neil Andrews all get promoted to managerial positions, retired trainer Dom Zaki is reinvented as TT's 'Editorial Director' and the fur flies over Fillies and Colts Guineas day coverage. However, we do like the new online channel- damn good value at under R100 per month

First Timers

Gold Circle institutes the new 'First Timer' initiative to help punters, which is more positively received in some quarters than others.

On Track

First drought then rain as well as lightning played havoc with several of our race meetings. As usual Gold Circle came under fire for the KZN tracks over the winter season, but to their credit, take steps to remedy it. However, it has prompted the formation of a new KZN Owners' Association under Brian Burnard. Durbanville receives a track make-over and there is

talk of big things to come at Kenilworth as well as plans to refurbish the Milnerton training centre - although we've heard this one before.

Legalese

Horse of the Year title went to Legal Eagle, who won three Gr1 races between January and April- the Queen's Plate, Horse Chestnut Stakes and Champions Challenge. He raced in the virtually unbeatable colours of Mayfair Speculators, who got the title of Owner Of The Year for the umpteenth time.

Bye Mr Bass

Mike Bass brings down the curtain on an illustrious career with a final Gr1 win in the Mike & Carol Bass Champions Cup at Greyville with top 3yo, Marinaresco. Mike bows out and hands over the reins to Candice.

The Sun Sets

2016 was a year of flux for the flamboyant and popular Tellytrack presenter Shaheen Shaw. In October he resigned his post with the intention of relocating to the Cape for family reasons. Just days after his resignation he suffered a heart attack. Fully recovered, he has moved to the Mother City and we will miss his famous call to 'hit 'em hard sunshines'. Hopefully this passionate disciple of punting will not be lost to the game.



Sad Goodbyes

Internationally we lost musical greats including George Michael, Prince, David Bowie, Leonard Cohen, Glenn Frey and Leon Russell, entertainers Andrew Sachs, Gene Wilder, Alan Rickman and Zsa Zsa Gabor. Sportspeople included Garrett Gomez, Walter Swinburn, Arnold Palmer and Muhammad Ali. On home soil we said

goodbye to Moira Ellis, Cape jockey Christopher Puller, Highflyer Stud's Neill Griesel, owner / breeder / administrator Hymie Maisel, popular PE racing photographer Deon Botha, Singapore Sling owner Tiaan Thatcher and trainer, administrator and stud manager, Allen Roux. In the paddocks we lost Lammerskraal's Nacarat, Wilgerbosdrift's Ilha Da Victoria, Sean Tarry's stalwart Golden Apple, our only dual July winner El Picha and the Million Dollar Horse, Illuminator.

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LEADING BREEDERS by STAKES													SEASON 2016/2017 • 1 August - 27 December 2016			
Stakes	Breeder	rnr	AEPR	runs	wnr	wns	wnr/wnr%	SW wnr	SW wns	SW wnr/wnr%	plcs	plc/rns%	SP	top earner with stakes & % of total stakes		
10,578,838	Klawervlei Stud	308	34,347	1082	90	115	29%	5	5	6%	287	27%	6	William Longsword	765,000	7%
9,010,050	Summerhill Stud	298	30,235	1158	70	94	23%	2	2	3%	289	25%	0	Africa Rising	669,500	7%
5,106,925	Varsfontein Stud	90	56,744	298	41	49	46%	3	4	7%	81	27%	6	Hack Green	625,000	12%
4,542,700	Maine Chance	137	33,158	463	41	49	30%	1	1	2%	145	31%	5	Liege	251,750	6%
4,102,725	Highlands	130	31,559	425	36	46	28%	2	2	6%	114	27%	3	Trip To Heaven	359,375	9%
3,352,025	Ascot Stud	74	45,298	277	25	33	34%	1	1	4%	90	32%	3	Search Party	322,500	10%
3,306,750	Drakenstein Stud	78	42,394	259	29	35	37%	2	2	7%	98	38%	3	Singapore Sling	393,750	12%
2,874,800	Scott Bros	126	22,816	491	24	27	19%	1	2	4%	123	25%	2	Front Rank	272,100	9%
2,546,413	Lammerskraal Stud	69	36,905	230	21	27	30%	1	1	5%	61	27%	1	Icy Trail	400,325	16%
2,467,000	Hemel 'n Aarde Stud	97	25,433	342	26	34	27%	0	0	0%	83	24%	0	Magical Bet	187,250	8%
2,265,263	GJ Armitage	69	32,830	264	22	29	32%	1	1	5%	81	31%	1	Tilbury Fort	218,500	10%
2,182,400	Wilgerbosdrift	70	31,177	245	19	27	27%	1	1	5%	67	27%	1	Nebula	233,750	11%
2,043,075	Mauritzfontein Stud	48	42,564	178	12	20	25%	0	0	0%	53	30%	1	Irish Pride	522,500	26%
2,005,975	Moutonshoek	83	24,168	298	25	28	30%	1	1	4%	68	23%	1	Refuge	176,750	9%
1,827,025	Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein	77	23,728	238	21	23	27%	0	0	0%	70	29%	0	Babbling Brooke	147,000	8%
1,677,550	Favour Stud	55	30,501	250	17	20	31%	0	0	0%	72	29%	1	Elevated	130,800	8%
1,630,300	Clifton Stud	55	29,642	226	16	19	29%	1	1	6%	43	19%	0	Bezanova	250,000	15%
1,626,925	RJ Antrobus	4	406,731	21	2	2	50%	0	0	0%	9	43%	1	Safe Harbour	1,512,000	93%
1,608,975	La Plaisance Stud	45	35,755	133	17	20	38%	0	0	0%	51	38%	1	Quine	117,000	7%

LEADING SIREs by STAKES													SEASON 2016/2017 • 1 August - 27 December 2016			
Stakes	Sire	rnr	AEPR	runs	wnr	wns	wnr/wnr%	SW wnr	SW wns	SW wnr/wnr%	plcs	plc/rns%	SP	top earner with stakes & % of total stakes		
8,061,288	Captain Al	141	57,172	470	62	80	44%	7	7	11%	140	30%	6	William Longsword	765,000	9%
6,867,150	Silvano	168	40,876	549	64	81	38%	2	2	3%	187	34%	6	Nebula	233,750	3%
5,764,375	Trippi	148	38,948	488	46	59	31%	3	4	7%	161	33%	5	Gold Standard	609,375	11%
4,906,475	*Kahal	129	38,035	516	47	65	36%	1	1	2%	144	28%	0	Intergalactic	326,250	7%
4,706,038	Dynasty	117	40,223	361	39	50	33%	3	3	8%	101	28%	7	Just Sensual	720,000	15%
4,164,088	Elusive Fort	70	59,487	291	26	32	37%	0	0	0%	93	32%	3	Safe Harbour	1,512,000	36%
3,676,525	Gimmethgreenlight	66	55,705	232	25	31	38%	1	2	4%	75	32%	0	Hack Green	625,000	17%
3,170,850	*Jet Master	53	59,827	212	16	18	30%	1	1	6%	72	34%	5	Master Sabina	1,225,000	39%
3,121,350	Var	147	21,234	461	30	34	20%	0	0	0%	145	31%	2	Life Is Good	119,375	4%
2,957,300	Visionaire	74	39,964	262	26	31	35%	0	0	0%	70	27%	1	Africa Rising	669,500	23%
2,916,913	*Western Winter	98	29,764	318	32	38	33%	0	0	0%	85	27%	0	Bishop's Bounty	196,875	7%
2,640,500	*Horse Chestnut	73	36,171	288	26	36	36%	0	0	0%	77	27%	1	Seal My Fate	225,000	9%
2,439,325	Mambo In Seattle	101	24,152	364	27	28	27%	1	1	4%	82	23%	4	Saratoga Dancer	227,725	9%
2,386,575	Ideal World	65	36,717	231	18	24	28%	0	0	0%	72	31%	2	Irish Pride	522,500	22%
2,355,288	*Sail From Seattle	77	30,588	267	23	26	30%	0	0	0%	75	28%	0	Last Outlaw	202,300	9%
2,319,375	*Tiger Ridge	71	32,667	265	22	32	31%	0	0	0%	73	28%	0	Jo Malone	173,800	7%
2,198,138	Seventh Rock	88	24,979	316	24	30	27%	0	0	0%	77	24%	1	Crystal Glamour	221,875	10%
2,081,350	Querari	45	46,252	145	16	21	36%	1	2	6%	44	30%	1	Kangaroo Jack	417,500	20%
2,058,600	Just As Well	31	66,406	104	8	10	26%	0	0	0%	31	30%	0	Chilli Con Carne	1,265,625	61%

LEADING SIREs of 3YO'S by STAKES													SEASON 2016/2017 • 1 August - 27 December 2016			
Stakes	Sire	rnr	AEPR	runs	wnr	wns	wnr/wnr%	SW wnr	SW wns	SW wnr/wnr%	plcs	plc/rns%	SP	top earner with stakes & % of total stakes		
3,708,338	Captain Al	46	80,616	159	27	34	59%	2	2	7%	43	27%	1	William Longsword	765,000	21%
3,672,025	Gimmethgreenlight	65	56,493	231	25	31	38%	1	2	4%	74	32%	0	Hack Green	625,000	17%
2,571,550	Elusive Fort	39	69,937	150	13	13	33%	0	0	0%	36	24%	2	Safe Harbour	1,512,000	59%
2,288,675	Dynasty	46	49,754	127	15	23	33%	2	2	13%	36	28%	1	Just Sensual	720,000	31%
2,135,450	Visionaire	41	52,084	140	16	20	39%	0	0	0%	33	24%	1	Africa Rising	669,500	31%
2,127,825	Trippi	45	47,285	133	20	26	44%	1	2	5%	33	25%	1	Gold Standard	609,375	29%
2,047,450	Silvano	57	35,920	163	22	24	39%	0	0	0%	66	40%	0	Palladium	145,600	7%
1,727,125	Just As Well	17	101,596	52	5	7	29%	0	0	0%	14	27%	0	Chilli Con Carne	1,265,625	73%
1,499,200	Philanthropist	51	29,396	145	10	13	20%	2	2	20%	36	25%	2	Singapore Sling	393,750	26%
1,418,800	*Western Winter	40	35,470	121	15	18	38%	0	0	0%	33	27%	0	Bishop's Bounty	196,875	14%
1,387,375	Pathfork	34	40,805	120	13	17	38%	0	0	0%	33	28%	0	Elusive Path	371,250	27%
1,374,413	*Sail From Seattle	46	29,879	166	12	13	26%	0	0	0%	45	27%	0	Last Outlaw	202,300	15%
1,334,025	Var	68	19,618	201	13	15	19%	0	0	0%	63	31%	0	Life Is Good	119,375	9%
1,206,763	Seventh Rock	42	28,732	138	12	17	29%	0	0	0%	38	28%	0	Rock A Bye Baby	147,550	12%
1,190,125	*Kahal	37	32,166	138	12	14	32%	0	0	0%	35	25%	0	Amazon King	143,325	12%
1,160,275	Mambo In Seattle	55	21,096	156	16	16	29%	0	0	0%	28	18%	1	Seatops	93,750	7%

LEADING SIREs by STAKES on Polytrack													SEASON 2016/2017 • 1 August - 27 December 2016			
Stakes	Sire	rnr	AEPR	runs	wnr	wns	wnr/wnr%	SW wnr	SW wns	SW wnr/wnr%	plcs	plc/rns%	SP	top earner with stakes & % of total stakes		
1,188,525	Captain Al	45	26,412	99	17	19	38%	1	1	6%	22	22%	0	Celtic Captain	115,550	10%
1,174,700	Silvano	49	23,973	106	16	18	33%	0	0	0%	30	28%	0	Scent	149,200	13%
993,200	*Western Winter	40	24,830	91	15	17	38%	0	0	0%	19	21%	0	Call Me Winter	105,625	11%
881,925	Dynasty	31	28,449	76	11	14	35%	0	0	0%	22	29%	0	The Stones	106,600	12%
796,925	Black Minnaloushe	34	23,439	90	7	8	21%	0	0	0%	37	41%	0	Lucky Luciano	121,550	15%
744,550	Visionaire	35	21,273	74	11	12	31%	0	0	0%	18	24%	0	Missibaba	106,425	14%
735,325	*Kahal	50	14,707	124	8	9	16%	0	0	0%	32	26%	0	Aramouse	98,675	13%
678,700	Miesque's Approval	54	12,569	151	7	7	13%	0	0	0%	35	23%	0	She Done Good	86,500	13%
672,650	A P Answer	36	18,685	97	9	10	25%	0	0	0%	17	18%	0	Structural Reply	107,875	16%
651,825	*Horse Chestnut	32	20,370	73	9	10	28%	0	0	0%	19	26%	0	Roy's Rakara	100,775	15%
646,450	Trippi	40	16,161	71	8	8	20%	0	0	0%	22	31%	0	Cardinal	62,700	10%

The FULL Statistics ONLINE <http://www.sportingpost.co.za/horse-racing-statistics/> *Stallion dead or Retired **Stallion Not Standing in RSA
 **Breeding operations not based in RSA - Statistics for Breeders & Sires reflect ALL earnings, incl. restricted races & handicap races

ENVISION THE FUTURE!



Our champion Freshman Sire of 2015, Visionaire celebrated a hat-trick of winners at the Vaal on Thursday and could add to his stakes tally at Greyville on Sunday.

The Gr1 winning son of Grand Slam's first-crop daughter Heaps Of Fun, winner of the Gr2 Gauteng Fillies Guineas last season, is a big runner in the Gr3 Flamboyant Stakes. Her main opponent could be Visionaire's Gr2 placed daughter, Lala.

Visionaire relocated from Summerhill to Lammerskraal in the Cape in early 2016. A grandson of Gone West, who was also the sire of Lammerskraal's four-times champion sire foundation Western Winter, Visionaire was a perfect-fit replacement – and his best days lie ahead.



OUR WARMEST WISHES FOR THE FESTIVITIES AND THE HAPPIEST AND MOST PROSPEROUS OF NEW YEARS.

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LEADING TRAINERS by STAKES

SEASON 2016/2017 • 1 August - 27 December 2016

trainer	runs	wins	win %	fav	fav %	wfav %	2nd	2nd %	1st four	1st four%	stakes	stks/runs
SG Tarry	535	85	16%	104	19%	37%	66	12%	261	49%	10,627,900	19,865
J Snaith	579	90	16%	133	23%	29%	73	13%	278	48%	7,743,850	13,375
BJ Crawford	334	51	15%	54	16%	48%	39	12%	153	46%	4,367,713	13,077
MF de Kock	293	37	13%	70	24%	26%	35	12%	145	49%	4,227,350	14,428
GV Woodruff	168	27	16%	31	18%	29%	18	11%	74	44%	3,901,338	23,222
JJ v Vuuren	140	26	19%	24	17%	46%	6	4%	59	42%	3,629,475	25,925
M Houdalakis	254	27	11%	24	9%	33%	24	9%	100	39%	3,546,700	13,963
AC Greeff	402	60	15%	77	19%	32%	41	10%	174	43%	3,497,900	8,701
DR Drier	231	37	16%	58	25%	41%	20	9%	102	44%	3,337,175	14,447
C Bass-Robinson	363	31	9%	52	14%	23%	42	12%	151	42%	3,284,388	9,048
GS Kotzen	313	38	12%	37	12%	46%	32	10%	132	42%	3,252,975	10,393
J Ramsden	187	23	12%	36	19%	25%	27	14%	100	53%	3,225,575	17,249
GM Alexander	216	29	13%	27	13%	26%	26	12%	87	40%	2,980,525	13,799
DC Howells	274	26	9%	45	16%	38%	22	8%	104	38%	2,977,950	10,868
MG Azzie	239	24	10%	34	14%	18%	30	13%	100	42%	2,784,225	11,649
VH Marshall	264	25	9%	37	14%	35%	17	6%	89	34%	2,762,425	10,464

LEADING JOCKEYS by WINS

SEASON 2016/2017 • 1 August - 27 December 2016

jockey	rides	wins	win %	fav	fav %	wfav %	2nd	2nd %	1st four	1st four%	stakes	stks/rides
G Cheyne	413	73	18%	97	23%	32%	61	15%	245	59%	5,102,100	12,354
A Fortune	410	71	17%	108	26%	28%	54	13%	220	54%	5,329,913	13,000
C Zackey	573	66	12%	49	9%	29%	51	9%	218	38%	5,211,863	9,096
A Marcus	244	65	27%	136	56%	35%	34	14%	169	69%	6,155,775	25,229
R Fourie	276	65	24%	82	30%	41%	50	18%	171	62%	5,083,475	18,418
A Delpech	307	59	19%	116	38%	32%	50	16%	185	60%	6,101,400	19,874
G Larena	253	57	23%	92	36%	30%	37	15%	165	65%	8,251,238	32,614
M Yeni	643	56	9%	66	10%	24%	64	10%	253	39%	4,690,375	7,295
L Hewitson	453	47	10%	45	10%	18%	34	8%	148	33%	3,695,101	8,157
R Simons	391	45	12%	50	13%	34%	37	9%	154	39%	3,960,725	10,130
JP vd Merwe	464	45	10%	30	6%	33%	34	7%	176	38%	3,566,488	7,686
P Strydom	226	44	19%	66	29%	29%	36	16%	127	56%	4,352,200	19,258
S Khumalo	289	43	15%	58	20%	33%	41	14%	137	47%	5,006,825	17,325
R Munger	575	37	6%	23	4%	17%	49	9%	172	30%	2,941,050	5,115
M v Rensburg	420	36	9%	28	7%	32%	43	10%	149	35%	3,193,213	7,603
C Orffer	211	34	16%	35	17%	43%	25	12%	93	44%	2,953,288	13,997
G v Niekerk	304	34	11%	51	17%	22%	46	15%	143	47%	3,536,425	11,633

LEADING TRAINERS/JOCKEYS by WINS %

SEASON 2016/2017 • 1 August - 27 December 2016

trainer/jockey	runs	wins	win %	fav	fav %	wfav %	2nd	2nd %	stakes	stks/runs
GS Kotzen/R Fourie	38	16	42%	15	39%	73%	10	26%	1,296,425	34,116
BJ Crawford/G Cheyne	33	10	30%	14	42%	57%	5	15%	667,775	20,236
A Nel/A Domeyer	41	12	29%	15	37%	60%	5	12%	818,875	19,973
SG Tarry/P Strydom	38	11	29%	16	42%	38%	6	16%	939,125	24,714
D Kannemeyer/A Delpech	67	18	27%	24	36%	38%	14	21%	1,324,300	19,766
AC Greeff/G Cheyne	164	39	24%	52	32%	35%	20	12%	2,124,900	12,957
J Snaith/R Fourie	128	31	24%	49	38%	35%	26	20%	2,240,975	17,508
CS Laird/A Marcus	58	14	24%	22	38%	45%	2	3%	1,075,650	18,546
J Snaith/A Fortune	45	10	22%	21	47%	33%	6	13%	571,850	12,708
GM Alexander/A Fortune	62	13	21%	17	27%	29%	13	21%	1,426,450	23,007
C Lensley/M Yeni	91	18	20%	21	23%	29%	14	15%	824,225	9,057
SG Tarry/S Khumalo	149	29	19%	41	28%	37%	21	14%	3,672,725	24,649
JJ v Vuuren/R Simons	74	14	19%	13	18%	46%	3	4%	1,515,950	20,486
SG Tarry/L Hewitson	74	14	19%	8	11%	38%	5	7%	1,181,825	15,971
BJ Crawford/C Orffer	160	28	18%	29	18%	45%	20	13%	2,341,600	14,635

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Mike Azzie has a decent 3yo on his hands in Var's son, Rivarine

TRAINER

One of South Africa's most experienced trainers, Mike Azzie will be looking to improve on his 10% strike rate and aims for his second feature success of the season at Turffontein on Saturday when the talented Rivarine takes on his elders in the Gr3 Lebelo Sprint. The Azzman's previous feature win this term was with Mella Maria in the Gr2 Joburg Spring F&M Challenge in October.



Piere Strydom – sheer mastery in the saddle

JOCKEY

Reflecting on Piere Strydom's outstanding hat-trick of winners at a low-key Vaal meeting on Tuesday reminded us that the six-times national champion jockey is the complete rider, no matter the occasion. With 44 winners at a decent 19% win strike-rate, he has no title aspirations this term. The vintage 'Striker'

won his sixth SA championship in the 2012/2013 season, his first since the 2000/2001 season.



Lyle Hewitson and Sean Tarry teamed up to win the Gr3 Christmas Handicap with Rikitikitana

JOCKEY-TRAINER COMBO'S

SA champion trainer Sean Tarry and national log-leading apprentice Lyle Hewitson boast a healthy 19% win strike-rate and were the toast of

Greyville on Boxing Day when teaming up to win the Gr3 Christmas Handicap with the Treador 4yo, Rikitikitana. Hewitson attempts another Gr3 success in the same silks this weekend – at the same venue. He

rides the consistent Fort Ember in the Dr Kevin Bakos yellow and light blue in the Flamboyant Stakes on New Year's Day. The daughter of Elusive Fort is saddled by trainer Paul Peter.

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PERSONALITY

Paying His Dues

Adam Marcus

Adam Marcus got his trainer's licence at the tender age of 22, striking out on his own at 23. He has been training under his own name for a little over 4 years now and saddled Royal Badge to victory in the Gr3 Cape Summer Stayers Handicap on Cape Guineas day.

Driving through the gates of the 'new' section of Milnerton training centre, one used to be met with a bit of an eyesore. The area to the left of the loading ramp was neglected with the disused nooks and crannies of the perimeter walls piled with bags of bedding and refuse, waiting to be removed.

However, in March 2012, things began to change. A maroon and white sign appeared on the nearest block, stables were cleaned, doors rehung. Slowly things got tidied, mended, and smartened up. The refuse disappeared, grass was planted, the layout was rearranged and now, instead of feeling as though you're in a derelict part of the training centre, it feels brisk, clean and organised.

Dressed in jeans and a baseball cap, Adam Marcus strides out to greet you. Born on 20th February 1989, Adam is still a few months shy of his 28th birthday, but has packed a lot into those 3 decades. Being the son of the great Basil Marcus, Adam spent his formative years in Hong Kong and England before returning to South Africa to complete his schooling in Cape Town. A talented cricketer, he chose valour over discretion in making racing his career path.

When you ask him why, he smiles wryly. "My dad tried to talk me out of it, but there's nothing else I'd rather do. From the time I was 14, I was at the yard every day after school. My dad wanted me to learn from the ground up, so I was in the feedroom for a year and then groomed for 2 years- I'm pretty good at it too. My dad felt it was important for me to understand how horses feel from the saddle, so that I was better able to understand feedback from workriders and jockeys, so I did 4-5 years of work-riding, although I'm probably not up to Dad's standard," he jokes. After matric, Adam did a stint with Herman Brown jnr in Dubai, getting to work with the likes of Jay Peg and Desert Links. When he returned to team up with his dad again, he took on the role of being Marcus Racing's head assistant.

I put a lot of pressure on myself to make sure my horses get nothing but the best

Big horses

Basil relocated to Singapore and built up a highly successful string, including horses such as Ato, Flax, Clear For Action and Trafalgar Legacy. When Basil chose to return to South Africa, they decided it was the right time for Adam to take over Marcus Racing. But why not simply start again here?

Adam explains, "My dad had a string of approximately 140 horses at the time of which I was in charge of a barn of 44. The plan had always been for me to take over the Singapore string, but unfortunately things didn't turn out as planned but the two year period was filled with valuable knowledge and experience.

Starting out

Adam picked up the phone to Mrs Oppenheimer, who had been a loyal client for many years.

"I asked if she'd support me if I took out my trainer's license. She answered 'Let me know when your barn is ready and the horses will arrive'. As a 23 year old, it gave me goose bumps to get unquestioning support like that and she was as good as her word. I started with 6 horses of which 3 were Mrs O's. It was wonderful working for a lady of her stature and we had a very good relationship. Whether she had a maiden or a graded runner, to her every single one was like winning the July and I was very sad when she passed." The front office, for client comfort, is simply, but comfortably furnished.



PERSONALITY - ADAM MARCUS

There are photographs of stable stars – past and present- on the walls and although it's only a select few for now, Adam says when he reaches 100 winners, he's planning a big collage. The back office is the engine room and houses all the stable paperwork, neatly ordered into files.

Work lists, veterinary lists, dentist, physio and chiro visits- each horse's entire history recorded in minute detail in Adam's neat handwriting. The meticulous organisation continues through to the feed and tack room, which Adam shows off proudly. There are three different brands of feed ("I'm a fussy eater and hate being offered food I don't like,"), all the buckets are spotlessly clean and neatly stacked and there is an electronic scale to weigh each ration, as well as any leavings.

In the tack room, the saddles and bridles are neatly arranged. Each horse is allocated its own set of tack, adjusted to each individual as well as to keep the spread of infections and diseases to a minimum. It takes a while to figure out what is missing and when I finally do, I realise it's mess. There isn't any.

Although that ought to feel regimented, it simply feels efficient. Horses thrive on routine and the Marcus horses are calm and good-natured, happily putting their heads over the doors to say hello as we pass and all glossy with good health.

Appearances matter

One shouldn't judge a book by its cover, because what you see isn't always what you get, but on the other hand, sometimes it is. Also, it's a matter of principle for Adam. "I like to think we have the gold standard. I put a lot of pressure on myself to make sure my horses get nothing but the best.

I'm not in a position – at least not yet – where I have big clients with big buying power behind me to buy the top bloodstock, so I put everything I can into every single horse to make sure they reach their potential. Feet are very important to me – my horses never go one day overdue, but whether it's feed or vaccinations or planning a horse's races, I control as much as I can, because all those details add up to lengths on the track."

I get a grand tour of the yard and knowing what it looked like before, it's hard not to marvel at how things have changed. Adam explains, "Every cent I make goes into the yard. It has taken a long time and there's still a lot more to do, but I'm doing it bit by bit as I can afford it."

"Because my dad is so supportive and spends a lot of time here, people seem to think I am just the figure head and he does the training and buys me any horses I like.

"If only! Yes, my dad is very generous in helping pick horses at sales and is happy to advise if I ask, but most of the time he says 'you know what to do'. I train his homebreds, so he comes to the yard to stroke and cuddle his horses and enjoy being

I have my own yard and 5 years' experience and I'm only 27

around them, but that's as far as it goes. The rest is all me. Like any businessman, I'm responsible for the rent, wages, feed and equipment, canvassing for clients, running the books, etc. It's not easy. But I'm lucky to have had the education and experience I've had so far. My dad gave me a good grounding and I was incredibly fortunate to work with horses like Jay Peg and Ato, so in many ways, I'm ahead of the curve – I have my own yard and 5 years' experience and I'm only 27. "My stats are consistently just below the top yards with 100-200 horses, so I know I do a good job, but realistically one is only as good as your stock. I'm at a point where I'm doing well, but either need a big client or a big break to reach the next step. There are not many young trainers coming through the ranks, particularly in Cape Town, so in many ways I am part of the future, I just need the opportunity to get to the next level. Either way, I believe that hard work will get me there, I just need to hang on until it happens."

Royal Badge

We stop in to look at current star, Royal Badge, being rubbed down for the afternoon. "He's from a really lovely family from James Armitage's Sandown Stud. First we bought Priceless Jewel who won 8 races including the Champagne Stakes, Olympic Duel and Prix Du Cap and finished 3rd in the Gr1 Majorca Stakes. Then we bought Crystal Cavern who won the Stormsvlei Mile and now there's Royal Badge, so all my feature winners have been out of So Royal."

It gave me goose bumps to get unquestioning support like that

"His early form was very good. I wasn't in a rush to geld him as he didn't need it physically, but his behaviour was getting a little out of control, so we did it after the Winter Series. His first two runs back were definitely below his true ability]. The first time out over 1400m he sat back and never got into it. Aldo came back and said 'don't be put off', but I was concerned as I'd thought more of him than that.

"Next time out was over 1800m with Corne Orffer. I have to say, it's not often a jockey comes back and says the horse gave him a good feel when they finished last! I was questioning myself after those first two runs, but his work at home was sensational, so it was nice to see him bounce back to best in the Cape Summer Stayers Handicap."

He went up 5lbs from his last win and he's a MR95 now, so we're aiming him for the 3200m Handicap on Queen's Plate day. My dad always says 'keep yourself in the best company and your horses in the worst', so I thought it wise to go the handicap route as I feel he's still ahead of the handicapper at this stage and should be competitive off that rating. Then there's a 2800m on Met Day.

"I'm lucky to have patient owners and it's a privilege to be able to produce him through the ranks. He's definitely one of the best in my short career."

We wish our clients all the best over the festive season and thank them for their support throughout the year.

ASCOT STUD

AT THE CAPE PREMIER YEARLING SALE

LOT 18

Full brother Cape Guineas winner ELUSIVE GOLD

Contact: Mrs Rose Parker & Dr Ashley Parker • Tel: (041) 366 1181 • Fax: (041) 366 1185 • Cell: 082 446 5287

Short Heads

Swinging On

Champion jockey Anton Marcus' admission after his win aboard Tevez in the Listed Southeaster Sprint at Kenilworth on Saturday that he can never be accused of 'swinging on to too many of them', was an interesting confirmation of his preferred riding style. Tevez has always been a late swoop merchant – but Marcus somehow got him to win readily with a more prominent galloping display.

That makes the stipes report from Greyville on Friday evening, specifically race 7, interesting reading:

Jockey A Marcus the rider of Killer Woman appeared before the Board with regard to him slowing the pace in front, in the middle stages of the race, which resulted in Little Chapel (M Winnaar) racing to the front approaching the 1000 metre mark. Jockey Marcus explained that this was a tactical manoeuvre to, in his opinion, give him the best opportunity of beating Little Chapel, given that Little Chapel normally runs her races with cover. Further he was aware that his mount may not see out the distance of 2000 metres as she had not raced over this distance before. The Board noted Mr Marcus's explanation.

Killer Woman (28/10) ran 2nd, beaten 3 lengths by the 5/2 favourite Little Chapel who just kept going.

Met Plans Scuppered

The excitement over the participation of the Mauritius Horse Of The Year Parachute Man in the R5 million Sun Met has come to nought as a result of red tape. The former Cape-based son of High Chaparral was one of 28 entries for the big race to be run at Kenilworth on Saturday, 28 January 2017. His trainer Ricky Maingard said plans had been abandoned due to the South African Directorate of Animal Health refusing to consider the use of the Kenilworth quarantine station for their use on arrival in the RSA. Are we ever going to internationalise the Met or Queen's Plate?

4000

That's the amount Australian jockey James McDonald won from his winning bet on his mount Astern last December. It seems an expensive price to have had to pay for an 18 months suspension dished out by NSW Stewards after he pleaded guilty to having an interest in the bet. His lawyer argued for a lighter fine as "the betting public, including the owner and the trainer, would think 'well he is trying.'" Gotta love lawyers' rationale!

NHA AGM

A reminder of the 135th Annual General Meeting of Members to be held at the offices of The National Horseracing Authority, Turf Club Street, Turffontein, on Wednesday, 18 January at 14h00

No Bull Good Value

Danehill's son Toreador, sire of Monday's smart Gr3 Christmas Handicap winner Rikitikitana, has produced a multitude of stakes winners to date and has to be one of the best value for money sires around. He stands at Bush Hill Stud for a fee of R20 000. He has produced the likes of Gr1 winner Link Man, Jackadore, Lazer Star, She's A Stunner, Straight Forward, Las Ramblas and Roc 'n Rose. And Rikitikitana looks like he could go on with it from here.

Eye On The Cup

The 2015 Melbourne Cup heroine Michelle Payne hopes to one day ride a horse she trains in the Melbourne Cup. Payne, who is registered as a jockey-trainer in Victoria, will head to Europe in the middle of next year looking for a horse to fulfil that dream. She said she might follow the lead of recent internationally bred Cup winners by looking to France and Germany rather than England. Payne is one of just six jockeys to also have a trainer's licence in Australia.

ITBF Congress

The International Thoroughbred Breeders Federation Congress will be held on 8 and 9 January 2017. The two day open veterinary forum at the Table Bay Hotel in Cape Town boasts an international line-up of speakers. The Cape Breeder's Club will be covering the cost of the tickets for their members.

Anybody wishing to attend should please contact Wendy Probert by no later than Friday 30th December. Contact Wendy on secretary@capebreeders.co.za or 074 375 4018.

Murray In A Hurry

Avontuur-sponsored Callan Murray has ridden another two winners in a flying start to his Australian working holiday at David Hayes' Lindsay Park Stables. After his double last week, he picked up further momentum and is proving popular with his hosts, riding two winners at Geelong on Wednesday.

Stay in
Touch with
the Latest
News

It's ALL
on the
Sporting Post
website
– click here

www.sportingpost.co.za

Eagle Eyes A Royal Occasion

SA Horse Of The Year Legal Eagle is set to defend his title in the 156th running of the R1,5 million Gr1 L'Ormarins Queen's Plate on the second day of the inaugural LQP Festival at Kenilworth on Saturday 7 January.

The final fields were announced on Thursday for what promises to be a blockbuster event on the Summer Of Champions calendar. The Sean Tarry trained Legal Eagle faces Champions Cup winner Marinaresco in what is anticipated to be a thrilling sub-plot following their clash in the recent Green Point Stakes, where Legal Eagle got the upper hand.



A thrilling rematch? Legal Eagle beats Marinaresco in the Green Point | Wayne Marks

R1 500 000 Gr1 L'Ormarins Queen's Plate (WFA)

1	3	Legal Eagle	60	123	T A	A Marcus	Sean Tarry
2	7	French Navy	60	115	A	W Marwing	Sean Tarry
3	10	Marinaresco	60	115	BA	G van Niekerk	Candice Bass-Robinson
4	8	Captain America	60	114	A	C Orffer	Brett Crawford
5	1	Abashiri	60	113	A	G Lerena	Mike Azzie
6	5	Sail South	60	112	A	R Fourie	Brett Crawford
7	2	Silicone Valley	60	111	A	D Dillon	Glen Puller
8	11	The Conglomerate (AUS)	60	107	T A	P Strydom	Joey Ramsden
9	9	Midnite Zone	60	102	TBA	M Byleveld	Brett Crawford
10	4	Fifty Cents	60	95	A	G Cheyne	Justin Snaith
11	6	Bold Rex	55	101	A	R Simons	Mike de Kock
Same Trainer – Not Coupled on Tote							
(1,2) (4,6,9)							

R1 000 000 Gr1 Maine Chance Farms Paddock Stakes (WFA) For Fillies & Mares

1	6	Bela-Bela	60	107	A	A Marcus	Justin Snaith
2	3	Silver Mountain	60	105	A	G van Niekerk	Candice Bass-Robinson
3	11	Goodtime Gal	60	99	A	G Lerena	Michael Robinson
4	9	Nightingale	60	99	A	A Domeyer	Candice Bass-Robinson
5	12	Chevauchee (AUS)	60	98	A	G Cheyne	Brett Crawford
6	1	Star Express	60	98	A	P Strydom	Justin Snaith
7	5	Tahini	60	97	A	S Khumalo	Sean Tarry
8	8	Icy Fire	60	94	A	C Orffer	Brett Crawford
9	2	Safe Harbour	54.5	108	A	W Marwing	Sean Tarry
10	10	Sail	54.5	102	A	S Veale	Dennis Drier
11	7	Final Judgement	54.5	99	A	R Fourie	Glen Kotzen
12	4	Whose That Girl	54.5	90	A	M Byleveld	Candice Bass-Robinson
Same Trainer – Not Coupled on Tote							
(1,6) (2,4,12) (5,8) (7,9)							

SCORE CARD

How horses performed in South Africa's black type races, expressed in points based on the kind of races and how far behind the winner they finished.

A [full explanation](#) of the point system and the complete list of point earners is on the [Sporting Post website](#).

TOP EARNERS for the 2016/2017 season

(to 26 December)

horse	age sex	points	races
Master Sabina	7 c	100	1
Kangaroo Jack	4 c	75	2
William Longsword	3 c	70	1
Just Sensual	3 f	70	1
Gold Standard	3 c	60	2
New Predator	4 c	53	2
Icy Trail	4 c	50	1
Legal Eagle	5 c	50	1
Bezanova	6 c	50	1
Search Party	4 c	50	1
The Conglomerate	5 c	37	1
Master Switch	5 c	34	1
Safe Harbour	3 f	32	1
Mella Maria	4 f	30	1
Jo's Bond	4 f	30	1
Singapore Sling	3 c	30	1
Ektifaa	3 f	30	1
Intergalactic	4 f	30	1
Bold Rex	3 c	28	2
Nebula	4 c	25	1
Captain's Flame	4 f	25	1
Fortissima	4 f	25	1
Green Pepper	3 f	25	1
Royal Badge	4 c	25	1
Captain America	6 c	25	1
Krambambuli	5 c	22	1
Marinaresco	4 c	21	1
Liege	4 c	21	2
Silicone Valley	6 c	20	1
Saratoga Dancer	5 c	19	1
Deo Juvente	5 c	17	1
Prince Of Wales	4 c	15	1
Bella Sonata	4 f	13	1
Edict Of Nantes	3 c	11	1
Polyphonic	4 f	11	1
Tahini	4 f	10	1
Carry On Alice	5 f	10	1
Sail	3 f	8	1
Visuality	3 f	8	1
Scandal	4 f	6	1
Will Pays	5 c	5	1
Heavenly Blue	3 c	4	1
Final Judgement	3 f	4	1

BLACK TYPE RESULTS

Kenilworth (new) 24 December**Course Variant: 0.8s slow (straight)**

As has been the case for several weeks now there was a southerly wind, and as a result of that the times down the straight were once again a little slower than the standard.

Southeaster Sprint (L)**Seven - and going strong**

Tevez proved too classy here, with Marcus riding a patient race. He gave the 7yo his head at the 200m, running on powerfully to hold off a late challenge from long-priced Asstar by three-quarters. Ernie showed improved form to get third half a length further back, and is one for the notebook.

A R700.000 National Yearling Sale purchase, the Avontuur bred Tevez is by Caesour out of the four-time winning Elliodor mare Minelli – which makes him a half-brother to champion sprinter Val De Ra. Tevez has won 7 races with 16 places for stakes of R1.208.800 in 36 starts.

Southeaster Sprint (L) 1100m

Winner Tevez raced close up in 4th; switched out for a run 400m; led 200m; won well

Runner up Asstar raced in the back rank, but in a very tightly bunched field early on was no more than 3 lengths off the pace; had to switch 120m; ran on strongly late; Third Ernie carried 0.7kg overweight; raced 5th; ran on; held every chance

Time: This was the fastest of the five sprint races, and the time in terms of ratings fitted very nicely with the second fastest, the Need For Speed Sprint.

We gave the winner (prev 108/104/103/99/99) 106, which makes the runner-up (prev 97/104/59/100/74) 96 and the third (prev 102/98/78/90/84) 90.

106 **1 0.00 TEVEZ** (2) 60.5 A Marcus 3/1
7 b g Caesour - Minelli (Elliodor)

another AVONTUUR Graduate**BLOODSTOCK SA Nationals - 700k**

96 **2 0.75 ASSTAR** (7) 57.5 D Dillon 15/1
5 b h Ashaawes - Stunning Star (Northern Guest)

BLOODSTOCK SA KZN - 80k

90 **3 1.15 ERNIE** (4) 55.5 A Domeyer 15/1
4 ch g Elusive Fort - Betty Burke (Captain Al)
83 **4 1.55 La Favourari** (5) 53.0 R Fourie 7/2
91 **5 2.30 Tar Heel** (6) 58.0 G Wright 15/1
81 **6 2.60 Line Break** (9) 54.0 G v Niekerk 28/1
84 **7 3.35 Captain Swarovski** (3) 56.5 G Cheyne 11/2
96 **8 3.40 Gulf Storm** (11) 62.0 C Orrifer 33/10
72 **9 3.80 Vincente** (8) 52.0 M Byleveld 35/1
73 **10 5.05 Olympian** (10) 54.5 C Bantam 28/1
50 **11 11.80 Triptique** (1) 55.5 S Veale 15/1

Time: 65.49s (59.54s 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 Shirtiliff B:Avontuur Farm

Greyville (turf) 26 December**Course Variant: 2.4s slow**

The course variant on both surfaces was slow, mostly notably on the turf. There had been 50mm of irrigation during the previous seven days and this clearly had a much greater effect than the official penetrometer reading of 23 would suggest.



Rikitikitana staves off Celtic Captain | Gold Circle

Gr3 Christmas Handicap**Scant Consolation**

Run over the turf mile, the Christmas Handicap saw last year's runner-up Stormy Eclipse start a weak second fancy after the money came for Lunar Approach.

With the temperamental Rikitikitana losing a few lengths at the break, Andrew Fortune on Sylvester The Cat made the running ahead of Celtic Captain and Budapest. At about the 800m the Sean Tarry trained Lunar Approach was pulled out of the race by S'manga Khumalo after the horse broke bloodvessels. Into the straight, Lunar Approach' stable companion Rikitikitana came from well back, storming down the centre to win by a half length, to give trainer Sean Tarry some consolation.

This was Rikitikitana's biggest success to date – he has won 4 races with 8 places from 21 starts and took his bank to R457.550.

Bred by The Alchemy, he is by Toreador out of the four-time winning National Assembly mare Russian Foxtrot. He went through the ring at the 2014 KZN Yearling Sale, as vendor buy-back.

Gr3 Christmas Handicap 1600m

Winner Rikitikitana (2nd best handicapped) dwelt start; raced at back; ran on well to lead close home

Runner up Celtic Captain raced 3rd; led 350m, no chance with winner

Third Budapest (3rd best handicapped) raced 3rd last; was forced wide at the top of

the straight; ran on; carried wide 250m Race favourite Lunar Approach was pulled up after breaking bloodvessels.

Time: The pace was a good one, and in relative terms this was the fastest run race of the day.

We gave the winner (prev 76/70/88/86/78) 86 which makes the runner up (prev 89/90/97/81/97) 103 and the third (prev 43/85/76/78/97) 94 and the 3rd (prev 91/91/91/101/87) 90

86 **1 0.00 RIKITIKITANA** (9) 52.0 L Hewitson 8/1
4 b g Toreador - Russian Foxtrot (National Emblem)
103 **2 0.50 CELTIC CAPTAIN** (2) 60.5B Lerena 6/1
4 b g Captain Al - Celtic Chalice (Royal Chalice)

BLOODSTOCK SA 2yo - 300k

94 **3 1.25 BUDAPEST** (10) 57.0 A Forbes 10/1
4 b Lithuanian - Fashion File (Count Dubois)
91 **4 3.00 Stormy Eclipse** (7) 57.5 A Marcus 5/1
97 **5 3.05 Ashton Park** (11) 60.0 D Daniels 18/1
79 **6 3.10 Capel Top** (8) 52.0 M Wimmerar 8/1
85 **7 8.10 Sylvester The Cat** (3) 59.5A Fortune 16/1
60 **8 15.60 Mr Roy** (1) 56.0 K De Melo 6/1
53 **9 15.85 Royal Navy Ship** (4) 53.0T Godden 45/1
48 **10 17.85 Great Rumpus** (6) 52.5 M Yeni 40/1
0 **11 99.85 Lunar Approach** (5) 53.0 S Khumalo 28/10
Time: 98s (61.25s avg/1000m, or 59km/h) SP Total %: 119%
1st T:SG Tarry O:Dr K G Bakos & Mr G M Bakos & Mr Clyde C Basel
B:The Alchemy

DIGEST DIARY

Features To Come

- Wed 4 Jan **(L) Lady's Bracelet (F&M)**
1600m Fairview (T)
- Fri 6 Jan **Gr2 Sceptre Stakes (F&M)**
1200m Kenilworth
(L) Jamaica Handicap (F&M)
2000m Kenilworth
- Sat 7 Jan **Gr1 L'Ormarins Queens Plate**
1600m Kenilworth
Gr1 Maine Chance Farms Paddock Stakes (F&M)
1800m Kenilworth
Gr2 Peninsula Handicap
1800m Kenilworth
Gr3 Chairmans Cup
3200m Kenilworth
Gr3 Politician Stakes (3yo's)
3200m Kenilworth
- Sun 8 Jan **Gr3 London News Stakes**
1800m Turffontein Inner
(L) Sea Cottage (3yo's)
1800m Turffontein Inner
- Sat 14 Jan **(L) Swallow Stakes (3yo F)**
1200m Turffontein (S)
- Gr2 Khaya Stables Diadem S**
1200m Kenilworth
(L) Sophomore Sprint (3yo's)
1200m Kenilworth
- Sun 15 Jan **(L) Michael Roberts Hcp**
1800m Scottsville

Be Surprised!

Many parts of this Digest are interactive, in editorial and adverts. CLICK and see what happens.

SIGNPOSTS

1st & 2nd season sires - 2yo's

CRUSADE freshman sire **Scott Bros.**

CRUSADE (Johannesburg)

Hoppertunity 2c (Revoltee by Indian Danehill)

[Greyville 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate 1000m \(01/01\)](#)

Calladdi 2c (Carina Coleman by The Sheik)

[Greyville 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate 1000m \(01/01\)](#)

DAN DE LAGO (Encosta de Lago)

Why Wouldn't Yew 2c (Yew Wood by Fort Wood)

[Kenilworth 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate 1000m \(31/12\)](#)

GIMMETHGREENLIGHT (More Than Ready)

Gimme The Light 2c (Tale OfThe Glacier by Lauterbrunnen)

[Kenilworth 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate 1000m \(31/12\)](#)

Green Plains 2f (Savannah Leigh by Jet Master)

[Turffontein 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate \(Fillies\) 800m \(31/12\)](#)

ORATORIO Sire of international Gr1 winners • **AVONTUUR**

ORATORIO (Danehill)

Arianos Bagofgold 2c (Heritage Wood by Var)

[Greyville 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate 1000m \(01/01\)](#)

HIGHLANDS Stallion • **PATHFORK** (Distorted Humor)

PATHFORK (Distorted Humor)

Leslies Pathtofame 2c (Simone by Trigger Finger)

[Greyville 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate 1000m \(01/01\)](#)

Tweed Valley 2f (Brora by Right Approach)

[Greyville 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate 1000m \(01/01\)](#)

WHAT A WINTER (Western Winter)

Dutch Philip 2c (Upity Ann by Dominion Royale)

[Kenilworth 1 Maiden Juvenile Plate 1000m \(31/12\)](#)

2nd season sires - 3yo's

ASCOT STUD STALLION

BOLD SILVANO (Silvano)

Boldly Respectable 3c (Respectable Lady by Kabool)

[Kenilworth 2 MR 81 Handicap 1400m \(31/12\)](#)

Vegas Lights 3f (Yvelines by Western Winter)

[Greyville 3 Maiden Plate \(F&M\) 1400m \(01/01\)](#)

DAN DE LAGO (Encosta de Lago)

Couldyoube 3f (Nouveaux Riche by Rich Man's Gold)

[Turffontein 3 Maiden Plate \(F&M\) 1160m \(31/12\)](#)

Miss Stake 3f (Festival Fire by Magic Albert)

[Kenilworth 8 Maiden Plate \(F&M\) 1000m \(31/12\)](#)

GIMMETHGREENLIGHT (More Than Ready)

Accidental Tourist 3f (Oopsy by Jet Master)

[Greyville 3 MR 88 Handicap \(F&M\)\(Polytrack\) 1200m \(30/12\)](#)

No Green Stars 3f (Flymetothestars by Jet Master)

[Turffontein 3 Maiden Plate \(F&M\) 1160m \(31/12\)](#)

Relaxed Wanderer 3f (Skyblade by Jet Master)

[Kenilworth 3 Maiden Plate \(F&M\) 1400m \(31/12\)](#)

Cossack Guard 3c (Cossack Star by Complete Warrior)

[Kenilworth 4 Maiden Plate 1200m \(31/12\)](#)

Whispering Light 3f (Fading Light by Bel Byou)

[Kenilworth 6 MR 76 Handicap \(F&M\) 1600m \(31/12\)](#)

Light Chaser 3f (Comet Chaser by Jet Master)

[Kenilworth 8 Maiden Plate \(F&M\) 1000m \(31/12\)](#)

Checkthegreenlight 3c (Check It by Almushtarak)

[Greyville 2 Maiden Plate 1400m \(01/01\)](#)

SUMMERHILL stallion • from the Champion Breeders

GOLDEN SWORD (High Chaparral)

Dazzling Token 3f (Relative Value by Jallad)

[Greyville 3 Maiden Plate \(F&M\) 1400m \(01/01\)](#)

MAIN AIM (Oasis Dream)

Main Flyer 3c (Lady Ladina by Aristis)

[Greyville 8 Maiden Plate \(Polytrack\) 1600m \(30/12\)](#)

Main Roll 3f (Merlene by Shalford)

[Turffontein 3 Maiden Plate \(F&M\) 1160m \(31/12\)](#)

HIGHLANDS Stallion • **PATHFORK** (Distorted Humor)

PATHFORK (Distorted Humor)

Master Shogun 3c (Brandy Butter by Danehill)

[Greyville 8 Maiden Plate \(Polytrack\) 1600m \(30/12\)](#)

My Friend Lee 3f (Sister Sheila by West Man)

[Turffontein 4 MR 76 Handicap \(F&M\) 1400m \(31/12\)](#)

Bobby Dazzler 3c (Baccarat Babe by El Prado)

[Kenilworth 4 Maiden Plate 1200m \(31/12\)](#)

PHILANTHROPIST (Kris S)

Bono 3c (Demanding Damsel by Deputy Commander)

[Greyville 1 Maiden Plate \(Polytrack\) 1200m \(30/12\)](#)

Sazerac 3f (Cocktail Party by National Assembly)

[Greyville 6 Maiden Plate \(F&M\)\(Polytrack\) 1600m \(30/12\)](#)

Give Your Best 3c (Wrapped In Clover by Mt Livermore)

[Greyville 7 Maiden Plate \(Polytrack\) 1600m \(30/12\)](#)

Dino's Delight 3c (Borrego Honey by Borrego)

[Greyville 7 Maiden Plate \(Polytrack\) 1600m \(30/12\)](#)

Count Philip 3c (Princess Isabella by Personal Hope)

[Greyville 8 Maiden Plate \(Polytrack\) 1600m \(30/12\)](#)

Asha Amazambane 3f (Candy Cotton by National Assembly)

[Turffontein 2 MR 68 Handicap \(F&M\) 1000m \(31/12\)](#)

Party Crasher 3f (First Arrival by Northern Guest)

[Kenilworth 6 MR 76 Handicap \(F&M\) 1600m \(31/12\)](#)

Rockefeller 3c (Generous Anna by General Nediym)

[Greyville 5 MR 66 Handicap 2000m \(01/01\)](#)

Good To Give 3c (Scented Samantha by National Assembly)

[Greyville 9 MR 78 Handicap 1200m \(01/01\)](#)

SUMMERHILL stallion • from the Champion Breeders

TRAFFIC GUARD (MORE THAN READY)

Starsky 3c (Rosetta by Rambo Dancer)

[Greyville 8 Maiden Plate \(Polytrack\) 1600m \(30/12\)](#)

**Is Your Horse
One To Follow?**

On this page - check the
Notable Maiden Winners & Horses for the Notebook
- see how promising the Sporting Post
ability ratings (AR) say they are.

SIGNPOSTS

Notable Maiden Winners

KAHAL

Rated **AR 69 WYNKELDER** (3g Al Vino by Al Mufti)
Maiden Plate Scottsville (1200m) (21/12)

BLOODSTOCK SA NATIONAL YEARLING SALE Graduate - 100k

Expected to benefit from the run, and possibly to need further, Tony Rivalland's newcomer was freely available at 50/1 on the off (R93 on the tote). He was a little slow into stride when the gates opened, and raced in the back-end of midfield. He fairly flew over the final 400m, and in eye catching style got up late to win going away. His race rating isn't anything to write home about though, so we'll have to wait and see how he gets on from here.

TIGER RIDGE

Rated **AR 81 SCARRABEAST** (3g Magnificent Maggie by Joshua Dancer)

Maiden Plate Greyville poly track (1400m) (26/12)

BLOODSTOCK SA NATIONAL YEARLING SALE Graduate - 140k

After progressing steadily when apprentice ridden in each of his last four starts, Scarrabeast showed considerable improvement in the hands of Anton Marcus here. Soon positioned close to the speed, Alistair Gordon's charge took up the running 400m out, and won going away by seven and three quarters.

Horses To Follow

A P ANSWER

Rated **AR 83 STRUCTURED REPLY** (3g Love Leah by Restructure)
MR 68 handicap (polytrack) Greyville (1000m) (23/12)

BLOODSTOCK SA KZN YEARLING SALE Graduate - 90k

This lightly raced half brother to The Plunderer made it a double of wins from seven starts. He's really come into his own now, and with front running tactics on the poly over 1000m can be followed until beaten. His rating increased again by a couple of points.

Winners Bred Abroad

another **AUSHORSE** winner

Whisky Baron (AUS) 4g Manhattan Rain- Tazkara(FR) (Sinndar)
Kenilworth 1800m (20/12)

Cape Fling (IRE) 4g High Chaparral- Miss Khaya (IRE)
(Danehill Dancer) Kenilworth 1600m (20/12)

another **AUSHORSE** winner

Gio Ponti's Legacy (AUS) 3g Gio Ponti- Intimation(AUS)
(Hussonet) Kenilworth 1000m (24/12)

another **AUSHORSE** winner

Ferrero Rocha (AUS) 4f High Chaparral- Larrocha(AUS)
(Danehill) Kenilworth 1600m (24/12)

another **AUSHORSE** winner

Raasmaal (AUS) 3c Snitzel- Coast To The Post(AUS) (Anabaa)
Turffontein 1000m (24/12)

another **AUSHORSE** winner

Street Flyer 5g Flying Spur- Rue Des Reves(USA)
(Royal Academy) Vaal 1600m (27/12)

SPORTS AND BETTING

English Premier League

Friday 30 December - Sunday 1 January



The final round of the first half of the season has some cracking match-ups, with the New Year's Eve clash between Liverpool and Manchester City at Anfield the standout fixture in

Gameweek 19. It promises to be an exciting weekend of Premier League action with some very attractive odds on offer. Let's get to it.

To catch up with Chadley Nagel's previews [CLICK HERE](#)

FRIDAY 30 DECEMBER

34/10 Hull City | Draw 49/20 | Everton 8/10 (22:00)
Everton are tipped to record maximum points.

SATURDAY 31 DECEMBER

27/20 Burnley | 43/20 | Sunderland 2/1 (17:00)
I'm going for the home win at 27/20.

1/4 Chelsea | 9/2 | Stoke City 19/2 (17:00)
Chelsea are tipped to Win To Nil at 7/10.

21/20 Leicester City | 24/10 | West Ham 5/2 (17:00)
I'm backing the visitors on the Win/Draw Double Chance at 7/10.

1/4 Manchester United | 17/4 | Middlesbrough 11/1 (17:00)
The home win is the way to go, but for more value take the home Win & Under 2.5 Goals at 12/10 as Boro can be solid defensively.

13/20 Southampton | 51/20 | West Brom 9/2 (17:00)
A tight affair is expected, but Southampton are tipped to edge it.

7/4 Swansea City | 9/4 | Bournemouth 15/10 (17:00)
I expect Bournemouth to win this one, but Both Teams to Score is a safer bet at 13/20.

13/10 Liverpool | 49/20 | Manchester City 19/10 (19:30)
[Please see featured game](#)

SUNDAY 1 JANUARY

17/4 Watford | 26/10 | Tottenham 13/20 (15:30)
Mauricio Pochettino's side are yet to play Southampton at the time of writing, regardless of what happens in that match – they should come away with maximum points.

3/10 Arsenal | 9/2 | Crystal Palace 15/2 (18:00)
The home win is a top bet.

TREBLE @ 3/1
Everton Win 8/10
Chelsea Win To Nil 7/10
Arsenal Win 3/10

CLOCKWATCHING WITH STEVE FURNISH

Looking Forward

A REVIEW OF THE WEEK'S BEST SPEEDRATINGS

New Course Record

Scottsville 18 December

The only race over 1000m in Pietermaritzburg on Sunday was a MR104 Handicap and in new course record time victory went to the 4yo son of Var ISCA. Sent off second in the betting market at 5/2, Gavin Van Zyl's charge raced at the back of the six early on. He ran on strongly at the business end of the race and after striking the front 100m out, he kept on to beat the previous record holder MUSCATT by 0,15.

Three of the afternoon's nine races were run over 1400m and quickest home in these was ROY'S AMAZING ASH in the boy's division of the maiden plate. Taken straight to the front by Brandon Lerena, the well supported outsider (14/1 into 7's) just kept finding in the straight and held on to beat the 18/10 favourite GLEN COCO by 0,25

They also ran three races over 1600m and stopping the clock in the fastest time here was the 5yo top weight BALTIC AMBER. Ridden for the first time by Anton Marcus, the Alado gelding stumbled at the start, but despite that was soon positioned close to the speed. He was visibly doing it easily at the top of the straight and went on to score comfortably by two after taking it up 300m out.

Titbits *Completing a hat-trick here, DRESS FOR SUCCESS ran on well from the rear when comfortably accounting for her twelve rivals in the MR66 Handicap over 1950m.*

No Beating About The Bush

Fairview 19 December

They raced on the turf on Monday where the fastest of the three 1200m races was the MR86 Handicap won by the progressive 3yo BEATABOUTTHEBUSH. Now unbeaten in three starts, the Gimmethegreenlight filly was soon up handy. She was ridden to lead 150m from home and only having to be pushed out won well by three quarters.

They also staged three races over 1600m and causing a major upset in the fastest of these, a MR75 Handicap, was TRICIA DUPONT. Freely available at 22/1 in this her first outing since relocating from Gauteng, the daughter of Dupont also raced handy. She put her head in front shortly after passing the 200m marker and won going away by two and a half.

A maiden juvenile plate over 800m had gotten proceedings underway and in what proved to be a real thriller victory here went to the second favourite BRIGHT FLAME. Holding just a narrow lead over the runner up DICKENSIAN throughout, the pair ran on strongly in the second half of the race and with the rest some three and a quarter lengths adrift they could only be separated on the nod.

Titbits *MAIN EXCHANGE only had to be pushed out when running on from midfield to win the girl's maiden plate over 1600m with authority by three and a half.*

A winner with some in hand, OFF THE BIT won the novice plate over 1600m much more easily than the official winning margin of a neck would suggest.

Strong Stuff

Kenilworth 20 December

All the rage to win the opening maiden plate over 1200m on Tuesday was the newcomer HEAD HONCHO and the son of Queri didn't let down his supporters. Sent off a strong favourite at 11/10, Andre Nel's charge raced in midfield during the early part of the race. Once given rein though he quickened well and in what proved to be the fastest of the three races over the distance, he comfortably accounted for another newcomer in KINGSTON PASSAGE by three quarters.

The only other distance to stage more than one race was 1600m where the faster of the two was the maiden plate won by VERDIER. Taken straight to the front by Richard Fourie, the 3yo son of Var enjoyed a two lengths advantage for most of the journey. He was briefly headed by PERGOLA 150m out, but fought back gamely below the distance to score by a half.

An allowance plate over 1800m topped the bill and here we saw another smart performance from WHISKY BARON. Backed through all rates into 13/20 from 12/10, Brett Crawford's charge raced fourth of the six early on. He put his head in front 400m out and went on to win with authority from the well-supported outsider MACDUFF (16/1 into 5/1).

Titbits *Balked twice despite initially racing handy, the newcomer PHILAE showed a nice turn of foot when getting up late to win the girl's maiden plate over 1400m.*

**Last Week's Top Rated
SPEED RATINGS winners incl.**

Roy's Amazing Ash won 7/1
Reine Tonnerre..... won 3/1
Bright Flame won 28/10
End Game won 18/10
Main Exchange won 16/10
Hot Mambo won 15/10
Almost Human won 1/1
Tern Unstoned won 1/1

Top speed ratings for this weekend

(Ratings shown have already been adjusted to allocated weights)

FAIRVIEW (FRI)

Race 1: (1) Lady Away 16
Race 2: (1) Lightning Bolt 37
Race 3: (8) Thunderwood 55
Race 4: (1) British Fairy 5
Race 5: (1) Villa Del Largo 84 (NAP*)
Race 6: (3) Dance In The Woods 36 (EW)
Race 7: (7) Valmode 48
Race 8: (4) Diamond Dynasty 40
Race 9: (14) Talca 48

GREYVILLE (FRI)

Race 1: (1) Cabinda 36
Race 2: (2) Sonic A P 12
Race 3: (1) Shezaleader 60
Race 4: (7) Thaler Point 37
Race 5: (12) Roy's Horse 45
Race 6: (1) Gusheshe 13
Race 7: (2) Roy's Past 11
Race 8: (1) Secret Service 17

TURFFONTEIN (SAT)

Race 1: No Qualifiers
Race 2: (2) Lakahal 37
Race 3: (2) Charter Jet 21
Race 4: (11) Winning Sister 45
Race 5: (4) Rafeef 81
Race 6: (9) Casciano 53
Race 7: (3) Dollar Dazzler 90
Race 8: (2) Cannes 52

KENILWORTH (SAT)

Race 1: (1) Captain My Captain 1
Race 2: (4) Gregorian Chant 53
Race 3: (2) Moonsaballoon 17
Race 4: (1) Cossack Guard 22
Race 5: (5) Elusive Stars 36
Race 6: (11) Joy To Joy 57
Race 7: (7) Shishangeni 50
Race 8: (2) Light Chaser 18

GREYVILLE (SUN)

Race 1: (1) Argo Magic 2
Race 2: (2) Glen Coco 12 (NAP)**
Race 3: (1) Florrick 25
Race 4: (14) Seattle Belle 35
Race 5: (12) Dhaamer 45
Race 6: (8) Pure Valor 67
Race 7: (12) Dawn Calling 83
Race 8: (4) Napoli 46 (EW)
Race 9: (2) Ho'oponopono 52

Nap bets

* Fancied ** Strongly fancied
*** Very strongly fancied

CLOCKWATCHING CONT.

Sparkling Wine

Scottsville 21 December

Racing returned to Pietermaritzburg on Wednesday where victory in the fastest of the three 1200m races, a MR64 Handicap, went to the easy to back KINGSVIEW. Freely available at 12/1 on the off, the King's Apostle mare led throughout. She gave her all over the final 400m and held on by a half from the dead-heaters STORM KITTEN and CAMOMILE.

There was another upset in the faster of the two 1400m races, a MR70 Handicap, when the 7yo POIVRE registered his fifth career victory. Priced up at 13/1 on the off, Poivre was always handy. He was ridden to lead as they approached the 200m marker and just held on by the narrowest of margins from the luckless 55/1 shot JACK THE KNIFE. Drawn wide, the runner up didn't find the clearest of passages when running on from the backend of midfield.

Quickest home in the two 1600m races was the Mike De Kock trained NORTHERN CHORUS. Sent off at 11/2 to win the MR66 Handicap, the Fort Wood filly raced sixth for most of the journey. She quickened well at the top of the home straight and despite hanging, she went on to win very comfortably by two and a half.

Titbits After being a little slow into stride, the newcomer WYNKELDER ran on very well from the backend of midfield when getting up late to win the maiden plate over 1200m going away.

Come In Number Six

Vaal 22 December

Three maiden plates opened up proceedings on the inside track on Thursday and quickest home in these was the newcomer BRIGTNUMBERSIX when getting off the mark in the only division for the girls. Nibbled at throughout the day into 5/1 from 14's, Lucky Houdalakis' charge raced in midfield during the early part of the race. She quickened well when the race began in earnest and won going away by a length and three quarters after striking the front 100m from home.

Race four on the card was a maiden plate for the girls over 1800m and here we saw a very easy victory for the 18/10 favourite END GAME. Confidently ridden by Piere Strydom, Sean Tarry's charge sat sixth early on. She put her head in front going through the 400m and went on to score as she liked by just over four.

FASTEST TIMES

(Number of races run in each category shown in brackets)
* Times taken by Clockwatcher

SCOTTSVILLE (INSIDE) 18 DECEMBER

Penetrometer 23 – Going Good	
Course Variant: 0,26s fast	
1000m (1) Isca	55,68
1200m (1) Albert	69,01
1400m (3) Roy's Amazing Ash	82,87
1600m (3) Baltic Amber	94,85
1950m (1) Dress For Success	120,41

FAIRVIEW (TURF) 19 DECEMBER

Penetrometer 21 – Going Good	
Course Variant: 0,31s slow	
800m (1) Bright Flame	45,46
1000m (1) Lady Willow	57,44
1200m (3) Beataboutthebush	69,66
1600m (3) Tricia Dupont	97,95

KENILWORTH (NEW) 20 DECEMBER

Penetrometer 22 – Going Good	
Course Variant: 0,43s slow	
1200m (3) Head Honcho	72,30
1400m (1) Philae	91,18
1600m (2) Verdier	101,92
1800m (1) Whisky Baron	114,19
2000m (1) Gimme One Night	126,19

SCOTTSVILLE (INSIDE) 21 DECEMBER

Penetrometer 23 – Going Good	
Course Variant: 0,08s fast	
800m (1) Royal Explorer	45,97
1200m (3) Kingsview	69,25
1400m (2) Poive	83,95
1600m (2) Norther Chorus	96,94

VAALE (INSIDE) 22 DECEMBER

Penetrometer 23 – Going Good	
Course Variant: 0,6s slow	
1400m (3) Brigtnumbersix	82,78
1600m (1) Copper Pot	96,00
1800m (1) End Game	110,92
2000m (2) Seal My Fate	125,46
2400m (2) Kanonkop	151,54

The faster of the two 2000m races on the card was the MR81 affair won by the lightly weighted SEAL MY FATE. Sent off at 13/1 after opening up at 20's, the daughter of Horse Chestnut attempted to make all. She was headed by the uneasy favourite ORCHID ISLAND 400m out, but fought back gamely in the latter stages of the race to score by a neck.

Titbits TORRE DEL ORO (raced midfield, baulked 250m) and HIGHLANDER (raced in rear) both ran on well from off the pace when 3rd & 4th respectively in the maiden plate over 1400m.

Notebook Horses worth following at their next few starts...

BEATABOUTTHEBUSH (A Greeff, E-Cape)
DRESS FOR SUCCESS (P Lafferty, KZN)
HEAD HONCHO (A Nel, W-Cape)
PHILAE (A Nel, W-Cape)

SINGAPORE - SUNDAY

Change Of Seasons



LIM'S ELUSIVE | (Singapore Turf Club)

A new year and a new racing season will greet racegoers at Kranji and there looks to be plenty on offer on the 11-race card to brush any hangovers away.

As usual the change of seasons will see some changes in personnel and the biggest name missing in 2017 is that of trainer Pat Shaw.

The popular South African has taken a six-month sabbatical but "his stable" is in excellent hands with long-time assistant, Ricardo Le Grange, taking over the reins.

Le Grange was granted his full training license late last year and for all intent and purposes, nothing would have changed in the stables that house some of Singapore's best horses including PERFECT P and TIME ODYSSEY.

The pair are leading hopes in today's Group 3 New Year Cup and are joined by two more Le Grange runners in COOPTADO and BIG BROTHER.

PERFECT P won the race last year and LE Grande will be hoping to the perfect start to his training career although last start winner DANIEL will have admirers and looks his biggest danger with ORDER OF THE SUN and BLUE SWEDE also in the mix.

Good luck Ricardo!

SUNDAY 1 JANUARY

Best Bets: (SUPER WINNER race 8, win), (JUPITER GOLD race 10, win) and (ORDER OF THE SUN race 9, value).

Bankers for Jackpots: Race 8 (1 and 5), race 9 (1, 2, 3, 4 and 5), race 10 (1, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8) and race 11 (4, 5, 6, 7 and 12).

[Race cards in Singapore](#) and

Larry Foley's synopsis and updates on all runners go to www.kranjiracing.com

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SOUTH AFRICAN POWA NUMBAS

Friday 23 December



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