



RACE HISTORY

Greyville Racecourse, Durban, KwaZulu-Natal - Africa's Racing Capital, is the home of Africa's Greatest Horseracing Event, the Vodacom Durban July. Situated in the heart of the Berea and surrounding the Royal Durban Golf Course, Greyville's 2 800-metre track has seen some of the greatest races in South African thoroughbred history. This is the heart of the country's racing industry.

KwaZulu-Natal Guineas

R300 000 - SATURDAY, 26 APRIL

The R300 000 South African Guineas, now known as the KwaZulu-Natal Guineas, was first run in 1932 and over the years has been won by some of the country's greats and many winners of this race have gone on to win the Durban July as well. Going back to the superstar Sea Cottage in 1966, who won the Guineas and then the following year, as a four-year-old and having been shot during early morning training, dead-heated in the Durban July with Jollify who had won the 1967 Guineas. Home Guard and Naval Escort fought out the finish of the Guineas in 1969 with Home Guard winning and in the Durban July the positions were reversed with Naval Escort beating Home Guard. In 1973 Yataghan ran fourth to Sabre in the Guineas and went on to win the July and in 1978 Politician won the Durban July as a four-year-old after winning the Guineas the year before.

Then there were the three Terrance Millard three-year-olds who triumphed in the Durban July after winning the Guineas. They were Royal Chalice in 1988, ILustrador in 1990 after winning the Guineas and the Derby, and Dancing Duel in 1993. Another Millard Durban July winner, Right Prerogative, won the Derby on his way to Greyville. The diminutive Teal completed the Guineas-July double in 1995 and in 2003 the magnificent Fort Wood colt, Dynasty, had the crowds gasping in amazement with scintillating victories in both races.

2008

Imbongi completed the Guineas double with a thrilling win in the KZN Guineas at Greyville Racecourse. The Mike de Kock trained gelding came back an awkward situation, being hemmed in about 150 from the post, to win the R300 000 Grade II event, and kick start Champions Season in Style.

Russian Sage ran second, with Modern Monet and Perfect Season making up the next places, after Kilcoy Castle was demoted from fourth following an objection.

Imbongi was one of three Mike de Kock runners in the Guineas, and started second favourite at 5-1.

Twelve Year History

Year	1 st	Kg	2 nd	Kg	3 rd	Kg	Time
1997	Golden Hoard	57,0	Sovereign Seas	57,0	Patchouli Dancer	57,0	95,50s
1998	The Delegator	57,0	Rarotanga Treaty (Aus)	57,0	Prairie Breeze	57,0	97,00s
1999	Clifton King (NZ)	57,0	Fort Defiance	57,0	Hawthorn	57,0	95,74s
2000	The Sheik	57,0	Glamour Boy	57,0	Royal Millenium (Aus)	57,0	99,58s
2001	Celtic Grove	57,0	Nhlavini	57,0	Redcarpet Style	57,0	96,23s
2002	Eventuail (Arg)	57,0	Hinterland	57,0	Ultrasound	57,0	95,60s
2003	Dynasty	57,0	Mambo	57,0	Domino Man	57,0	95,90s
2004	Heir Apparent	57,0	Otter Trail	57,0	My Choice	57,0	96,45s
2005	Dunsinane	57,0	Tiger Shark	57,0	Rabiya	57,0	96,23s
2006	Kapil	57,0	Hunting Tower	57,0	Money Bags	57,0	94,91s
2007	Dynamite Mike	57,0	Jay Peg	57,0	Surfin' USA	57,0	96,50s
2008	Imbongi	57,0	Russian Sage	57,0	Modern Monet	57,0	96,01s

KwaZulu-Natal Fillies Guineas

R250 000 - SATURDAY, 28 APRIL

The R250 000 South African Fillies Guineas, now known as the KwaZulu-Natal Fillies Guineas is one of the most important fillies classics in the country and was first run in 1971. As with most major races in South Africa, Terrance Millard has won this race more than any other trainer, taking the honours six times with Wild Ash (1979), Olympic Duel (1980), Tecla Bluff (1982), Up The Creek (1984), Cerulean Blue (1987) and Epoque (1989).

This race was very much a family affair with Millard's brother-in-law, Ralph Rixon winning it four times with Welsh Pageant (1977), Smart As Paint (1981), Grey Sun (1983) and Kiss Of Peace (1988). Millard's son, Tony, won the race with Empress Club in 1992 while his son-in-law, Geoff Woodruff, has now won it four times – with Star Effort in 1991, She's A Treat in 1996, Duchess Daba in 2003 and Promisefrommyheart in 2004.

2008

The KZN Fillies Guineas fell to Rei Rei, downing the favourite Rat Burana in impressive style. Karl Nesius took Rei Rei into an ideal position from her starting draw of 10, to race away to win by 2,75 length from Sahara and Ice belle, with Gilded Minaret finishing fourth.

The win was another top result for trainer Stan Elley and connections Milke Fullard,

James Drew and Bruce Watson-Smith, who continued their run of success at Greyville racecourse, after victory at the Guineas two years ago.

Twelve Year History

Year	1 st	Kg	2 nd	Kg	3 ^d	Kg	Time
1997	Finest View	57,0	Kilolima	57,0	Special Key	57,0	96,50s
1998	Spook Express	57,0	Saudies	57,0	Rattlebag	57,0	95,95s
1999	Donatella	57,0	Gay Regina	57,0	La Deportista	57,0	94,91s
2000	Mythical Play (NZ)	57,0	Leisure Guide	57,0	Tranquility	57,0	101,01s
2001	Hoeberg (NZ)	57,0	Classique Story	57,0	Trojan Belle	57,0	97,61s
2002	Ipi Tombe	57,0	Raining Roses	57,0	Rhinestone	57,0	96,34s
2003	Duchess Daba	57,0	Hawaiian Wahoo	57,0	The Daydream / Secret Heart Dead Heat	57,0	96,40s
2004	Promisefrommyheart	57,0	Ilha Da Vitoria	57,0	Sarabande	57,0	97,05s
2005	Joshua's Princess	57,0	Spirit Of the Dance	57,0	Fair Maiden	57,0	96,95s
2006	Bold Ellinore	57,0	School Assembly	57,0	Soft Landing	57,0	95,46s
2007	Sally Bowles	57,0	Royal Fantasy	57,0	River Jetez	57,0	96,50s
2008	Rei Rei	57,0	Sahara	57,0	Ice Belle	57,0	96,39s

ASTRAPAK



1900

R300 000 - FRIDAY, 23 MAY

The Astrapak 1900 is a Grade 2 merit rated handicap run for a stake of R300 000 over 1 900m and this year it will take place on Friday, May 23.

It is the highlight of a night meeting which has, in past years, also featured the famous Astrapak Challenge, a fun event involving sporting bodies such as the Sharks that are pitted against teams from other organisations in various entertaining competitions with proceeds donated to charitable organisations.

The Astrapak 1900 itself is one of the more important races on the Champions Season calendar. It is one of the stepping stones for older horses to secure a place in the final Vodacom Durban July field.

Each year horses from around the country converge on Durban for Champions Season and in many cases they need to show their ability and well-being if they are to be considered as potential big race contenders. Over the years many horses that have won or featured strongly in the result of this race have gone on to win Africa's greatest race.

The race was first run as the Union Day Handicap in 1926 and became one of the first races in the country to draw a sponsor when Gordon's Gin linked its name to the race in 1963. It remained the Gordon's Gin Handicap until 1980 when it was renamed the Republic Day Handicap.

The race enjoyed a variety of sponsors – Miracle Mowers, Racing Digest and Durban Plasma - before becoming the Greyville 1900. Astrapak took over the sponsorship in 2002 with the stake boosted to R300 000 and the name was changed to the Astrapak 1900.

2007

There was a large entry for this race and a field of 20 runners was declared with 15 of them coming from yards that had their home base outside of KwaZulu-Natal. After the scratching of Buy And Sell and Keeneland, 18 runners faced the starter on a perfect Durban autumn evening where the going was good and the track running fast.

Not surprisingly, the Jet Master colt Royal Air Force from the yard of Geoff Woodruff was a firm favourite from the outset with his price opening at 5-2 and shortening to 12-10 by the time the starter set them on their journey. The four-year-old had recorded three wins and three places from his seven starts and in his most recent race over the course and distance, had run second to the top Cape big-race contender, Jagged Ice.

His only rival in the betting was the Australian-bred three-year-old Our Giant from the Charles Laird stable. His odds opened at 6-1 and shortened to 4-1 while the bookies offered 10-1 and better on the balance of the field.

Royal Air Force is a big horse and needed a good pace to be effective and Woodruff ensured that by having jockey Raymond Danielson take stable companion To And Fro off to the front at a good gallop. He led from lightly-weighted Dealer's Choice who raced ahead of Captain Courageous, Pinero, Jive Talking and Sudden Storm.

To And Fro was keen to get on with it and was pulling hard in the early stages and when they came off the false rail and headed for the judge, he had a three-lengths lead over Dealer's Choice. The latter faded badly in the straight to eventually finish last but To And Fro kept running strongly.

Behind him the field were closing in with Royal Air Force getting into top gear but hard pressed by Fork Lightening and Our Giant who were running on strongly.

Jockey Mark Khan had to pull out all the stops in the final metres to get the very close decision and, had Fork Lightening not found a little trouble, the result might have gone in favour of the Sea Tarry-trained gelding.

Our Giant ran a super race to take third place with the seven-year-old Major Bluff, better suited to a lot more ground, flying through in the closing stages to deny To And Fro fourth place.

Eleven Year History

Year	1 st	Age	Kg	2 nd	Age	Kg	3 rd	Age	Kg	Time
1997	Faralmond (ARG)	4	50,0	Haarlem Park	5	51,5	Lambent Light (USA)	4	51,0	116,40s
1998	Harmony Forever	5	54,0	Without A Doubt	5	53,5	Prairie Breeze	3	50,0	113,31s
1999	Karaka One (NZ)	4	53,5	Circle Of Life	4	57,0	El Picha (ARG)	4	56,5	114,68s
2000	His Nibs (NZ)	6	51,0	Hautcar	4	54,5	Unknown Heights (NZ)	4	56,5	116,99s
2001	Double Reef (NZ)	4	56,5	Jackson Square	5	52,0	Trademark	4	56,5	116,01s
2002	Tytola (AUS)	4	50,0	Polo Classic	5	56,0	Oratory	4	51,5	116,30s
2003	Monet	4	51,5	Delaware Park	4	52,5	Red Badge	4	56,0	124,10s
2004	His Lordship	4	50,0	Wolf Whistle	5	58,0	Alastor	5	50,5	118,63s
2005	Reveille Boy	5	52,5	Delaware Park	6	54,0	African Lion	6	55,5	113,97s
2006	Bishops Rock	4	56,0	Lion Tamer	3	51,0	River Plate	6	54,5	116,77s
2007	Royal Airforce	4	54,5	Fork Lightening	5	56,5	Our Giant	3	52,0	114,41s



R1-million - SATURDAY, 2 JUNE

The mark of a country's thoroughbred talent is determined by the quality of its three-year-old crop and the best yardstick to gauge this level of quality is the Daily News 2000 which is run on the first Saturday of June at Greyville racecourse in the centre of Durban.

This contest brings out the best in the three-year-olds and not only goes a long way to determining which horse wins the Equus three-year-old title, but also gives a great indication of which horses could go on to win the country's premier race, the Vodacom Durban July.

On the fifth of June 2005 the talented grey colt Rabiya kept his sparkling career record rolling when he easily accounted for a number of capable sorts, the runner-up Zebra Crossing going on to win the J&B Met in the February of 2006. The runner that finished fifth in 2005 Daily News 2000 was Oracle West who went on to ply his trade in Dubai and has done so with distinction, taking his stake earnings well into the millions of rands.

Sadly, Rabiya suffered a life-ending injury when he was contesting the Vodacom Durban July that year, not having reached the heights he seemed destined to soar to.

A year later it was the turn of trainer Geoff Woodruff's Elusive Fort to rule the roost. This colt had to battle to get the better of a game Jagged Ice who was gallant in defeat.

The favourite for the race, Hunting Tower, could only manage third position, beating home the Brazilian import Eyeofthetiger, by just over a length.

This year's contestants proved to be an exceptional bunch with Eyeofthetiger going on to win the Vodacom Durban July that year and a year later Hunting Tower took the honours in the country's premier race.

Jagged Ice has just failed in a number of grade 1 races and will again this season be all out to capture that elusive Vodacom Durban July sash.

The Daily News 2000 2006 winner Elusive Fort was sold and now plies his trade on foreign turf.

2007

Last year the race looked to be in grasp of the Mike de Kock-runner Emperor Napoleon, but as fate would have it, he could only manage third behind winner Buy And Sell and runner-up Lucky Find.

As has been the case with so many runnings of the Daily News 2000, this year's result was again a good pointer to the Vodacom Durban July with Buy And Sell running the race of his life to finish second to Hunting Tower.

Lucky Find did not contest the Vodacom Durban July last year but went on to Dubai where he performed with distinction and lined up in the world's richest race, the US\$6-million Dubai World Cup.

The Daily News 2000 is one of the highlights of the racing career and is the platform that launches the careers of great horses. Don't miss this spectacle!

Eleven Year History

Year	1st	Kg	2nd	Kg	3rd	Kg	Time
1997	North By Northwest	57,0	Harmony Forever	57,0	Gray Cashmere	57,0	122,70s
1998	Flying Duel	57,0	Classic Flag	57,0	The Delegator (Aus)	57,0	120,20s
1999	Free My Heart	57,0	Fort Defiance	57,0	Norfolk Realm	57,0	120,94s
2000	Badger's Coast	57,0	Polo Classic	57,0	Double Reef (NZ)	57,0	122,16s
2001	Badger's Drift	57,0	American Badger	57,0	Addictive	57,0	122,04s
2002	Fiery Fred	57,0	Key Of Destiny	57,0	Roman Charger	57,0	124,80s
2003	Dynasty	57,0	Surveyor	57,0	Big Bad John	57,0	127,90s
2004	Grand Emporium	57,0	James Jaguar	57,0	Greys Inn	57,0	120,56s
2005	Rabiya	57,0	Zebra Crossing	57,0	Arabian Glow	57,0	133,19s
2006	Elusive Fort	57,0	Jagged Ice	57,0	Hunting Tower	57,0	136,12s
2007	Buy And Sell	57,0	Lucky Find	57,0	Emperor Napoleon	57,0	136,76s

Woolavington 2000

R500 000 - SATURDAY, 7 JUNE

Confined to fillies, the Woolavington has drawn the best three-year-olds in the country and has been won by some of the greatest names in South African racing like Hoeberg in 2001, Ipi Tombe the following year and most recently, in 2004, by the superb daughter of Elliodor, Promisefrommyheart.

It has been run in tandem with the Daily News 2000 and like that race, was run over 2 000 metres until 2006 when it was run for the first time over 2 200 metres. However 2008 sees the race distance being changed back to 2000m. The race received a major boost in stature, leaping from a Grade 2 event with a stake of R250 000 to Grade 1 status in 2005 and the stake has now been doubled to R500 000.

2007

The Australian-bred, Cape-based filly Sun Classique was never opposed as favourite for the race in spite of being well beaten in both her races since coming to KwaZulu-Natal. She stayed firm at 22-10 from the opening call until the off with Festive Occasion and River Jetez at 5-1, Angel Flight at 7-1 and both Arabian Pearl and London Fashion at 8-1.

First Power set the early gallop ahead of Arabian Pearl, Festive Occasion and Crescent Lily with Sun Classique racing towards the back after being slow away at the start. Arabian Pearl took over the lead from First Power going through the 400m mark with Festive Occasion gaining ground fast while Sun Classique had about eight lengths to make up.

Festive Occasion challenged for the lead in the closing stages but Sun Classique unwound a fantastic run down the outside to collar them both in the final strides. She won by a head from Arabian Pearl with Festive Occasion a short head back in third and River Jetez flying up from the back of the field for fourth.

Sun Classique went on to become a world star by winning the Sheema Classic in Dubai.

Eight Year History

Year	1 st	Kg	2 nd	Kg	3 rd	Kg	Time
1999	My Squeeza	57,0	Golden Apple	57,0	Evangelista	57,0	125,23s
2000	Kimberley Mine	57,0	Mythical Play (NZ)	57,0	To The tops	57,0	124,50s
2001	Hoeberg (NZ)	57,0	Carolina Cherry	57,0	Idle Fancy	57,0	123,43s
2002	Ipi Tombe(Zim)	57,0	Almah	57,0	Proud Classic	57,0	122,70s
2003	Icy Air	57,0	Tawny Run	57,0	Bacci	57,0	126,10s
2004	Promisefrommyheart	57,0	Princess Kay	57,0	Angelina	57,0	121,77s
2005	Irridescence	57,0	Joshua's Princess	57,0	Shadow Dancing	57,0	134,51s
2006	Count The Money	57,0	Next Sprint	57,0	Jet Past	57,0	136,32s

2007	Sun Classique	57,5	Arabian Pearl	57,0	Festive Occasion	57,0	138,10s
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R3 MILLION - SATURDAY, 5 JULY

This is the one and only, the most prestigious turf event on the African Continent. It enjoys international status and is a national institution in South Africa – it is Africa's Greatest Horseracing Event – The Vodacom Durban July.

2007

With just one win to his credit in the previous 12 months, few believed the four-year-old Fort Wood gelding had it in him to conquer the country's best in the toughest race on the African continent, the Vodacom Durban July.

Hunting Tower had shown very little, if anything, to be considered a major contender for South Africa's premier honour except, of course, for jockey Anton Marcus who chose him above his better-performed stable companion and winner of the Gommagomma Challenge, Pick Six.

But there is no substitute for class and the chestnut son of Stirrup Cup, a daughter of former Vodacom Durban July winner, Royal Chalice, had given notice as a three-year-old that he had star potential. He had won six of his 14 starts with placings in the other eight before finishing seventh to Eyeofthetiger in the Blue Ribbon event of 2006. In the ensuing year his only moments of glory had been when fourth twice over 1 600m and winning the London News at Newmarket over 1 800m. In the country's richest race he had been beaten five lengths by Pick Six.

But Anton knew the ability was still there and trainer Charles Laird prepared him to the minute. When he flashed across the finish line it gave Laird his first win in the race, Marcus's fourth and placed the famous name of his owner, Mrs Bridgett Openheimer, on the famed trophy for the fourth time.

In the end, coming through the traffic from midfield with 400m to run, it was his class, outstanding jockeyship and his blistering finish that carried him to victory and immortality in the annals of South African racing.

A champion among champions - Hunting Tower we salute you.

Eleven Year History

Year	1 st	Age	Kg	2 nd	Age	Kg	3 rd	Age	Kg	Time
1997	Super Quality	4	53,5	Golden Hoard	3	52,0	Shah's Star	3	52,0	136,80s
1998	Classic Flag	3	53,0	Faralmond (Arg)	5	54,0	Golden Hoard	4	56,5	132,09s
1999	El Picha (Arg)	4	53,0	Classic Flag	4	57,5	Circle Of Life	4	53,5	133,08s
2000	El Picha (Arg)	5	58,0	Young Rake	4	54,5	Free My Heart	4	56,0	133,86s
2001	Trademark	4	51,0	Celtic Grove	3	51,5	Double Reef (NZ)	4	52,0	131,76s
2002	Ipi Tombe (Zim)	3	52,0	Angus	4	52,0	Tytola (Aus)	4	50,0	135,94s
2003	Dynasty	3	53,0	Yard-Arm	3	51,5	Red Badge	4	52,0	135,20s
2004	Greys Inn	3	50,0	Superwood	4	52,5	Red Badge	5	50,0	132,65s
2005	Dunford	4	52,0	Silverpoint (Aus)	3	51,0	Eventuail (Arg)	6	58,0	135,28s
2006	Eyeofthetiger	3	54,0	Sushisan	3	51,0	Equal Image	4	53,0	132,59s
2007	Hunting Tower	4	55,0	Buy And Sell	3	53,0	Jagged Ice	4	54,5	134,60s

Garden Province Stakes

R350 000 - SATURDAY, 5 JULY

First run in 1963, the Garden Province Stakes has always been one of the major supporting events on the Vodacom Durban July programme and now, with Grade 1 status, the paddock value of the winner as a broodmare is increased tremendously.

Many outstanding fillies and mares have won this race over the years including the likes of Spook Express, Donatella, Velvet Green and Escolita Fitz while Ilha Da Vitoria, who ran second to Zimbabwean-bred Battle Maiden in 2004, went on to even greater heights and her progeny are eagerly awaited.

The race is one of the top weight-for-age events for fillies and mares in South Africa and has always drawn the best runners available in the country.

2007

Having won the Flamboyant Stakes and the Tibouchina Stakes, Bold Ellinore was always favourite for the race with Soft Landing, who had beaten her in the Garden Province Stakes the year before, seen as one of her main rivals being the number one choice of the three runners from the Geoff Woodruff yard.

In spite of her rather lack-lustre recent form at the time after having run second to Dane Julia in the South African Fillies Classic in the March, Sean Tarry's Angel Flight came in for strong support, shortening from 16-1 to 11-2. That support was fully justified as the three-year-old ran a tremendous race after giving handlers some problems at the start.

Also drawing support was the Cape filly Zooming Zellie whose odds shortened from 7-1 to 5-1.

Soft Landing, who loves to race up with pace or make it herself, led the field from Maelstrom, Stratos, Royal Fantasy and Bold Ellinore and the daughter of Jet Master

maintained her lead into the home straight. Royal Fantasy was the first of the leading group to fall away in the straight but Soft Landing still held a narrow lead from Stratos and Maelstrom through the 400m mark with Bold Ellinore beginning her move forward.

The Kahal filly turned it on over the final 200m and took command of the race to win going away by just over two lengths. Maelstrom and Stratos faded out in the closing stages and Angel Flight, having settled midfield for most of the race, put in a strong finishing burst to take second place ahead of Silver Empire and First Again who came on strongly from off the pace to fill the minor placings.

Eleven Year History

Year	1st	Age	Kg	2nd	Age	Kg	3rd	Age	Kg	Time
1997	Final Claim	4	57,0	Bamboogie	5	57,0	Roman Fantasy	4	57,0	97,30s
1998	Spook Express	3	55,5	Flaming Dancer	3	55,5	Whistling Dixie	5	57,0	94,69s
1999	Donatella	3	57,0	My Squeeza	3	57,0	Golden Braids	4	58,0	96,78s
2000	Circle Of Life	5	58,0	Toccatà (NZ)	4	56,5	Thatch Attack	5	58,0	96,23s
2001	Velvet Green (Brz)	3	57,0	Caroline Cherry	3	57,0	Toccatà (NZ)	5	58,0	95,62s
2002	Escoleta Fitz (Aus)	4	58,0	Raining Roses	3	57,0	Lite Spark	4	58,0	97,77s
2003	Tara's Touch	3	57,0	Rainbow Flag	4	58,0	Secret Heart	3	57,0	96,10s
2004	Battle Maiden (Zim)	4	58,0	Ilha Da Vitoria	3	57,0	Duchess Daba	4	58,0	94,91s
2005	Lyrical Linda	4	58,0	Jamaica	5	58,0	Overarching (USA)	5	58,0	96,23s
2006	Soft Landing	3	57,0	Bold Ellinore	3	57,0	Roxanne	3	57,0	94,70s
2007	Bold Ellinore	4	58,0	Angel Flight	3	57,0	Silver Empire	4	58,0	96,28s

Golden Horseshoe

R500 000 - SATURDAY, 5 JULY

A major event in the country's two-year-old programme, it was first staged at Clairwood in 1982 and later became known as the Sharp Juvenile Stakes over 1 800 metres. The distance was reduced to 1600 metres in 1999 and now, with the re-organization of the juvenile programme to ensure a smooth progression for the young horses through the various distances, it has been reduced further to 1 400 metres and the race moved to Greyville on Vodacom Durban July Day. It therefore replaces the country's top juvenile event, the Premier's Champion Stakes previously run on Vodacom Durban July day but which has been moved to All Stars Day at Clairwood.

The Golden Horseshoe has always drawn the country's top juvenile horses and in recent times has been won by household names such as Dancing Duel, Fort Defiance and Celtic Grove. This year should be no exception and, with a number of exciting horses among the juvenile ranks, it should again produce a thrilling, competitive event on Africa's greatest raceday.

2007

With some of the best two-year-olds in the country lining up for this race the massive crowd was assured of something special and they were not disappointed. But it was not a close finish that would have them cheering but an awesome display by a real champion.

The Western Winter colt Argonaut, having run a close second to Seventh Rock in the Gold Reef Resorts Medallion at Scottsville, topped the betting boards from the outset with stable companion and SA Nursery winner Hit Song second favourite. Profit Report and Field Event were also shown respect by the bookmakers with the balance of the field at 10-1 and better.

Strong support for Argonaut shortened his odds from 5-2 to 14-10 at the off with his other stable companion, Profit Report, being backed in from 6-1 to 7-2 while Hit Song went on the drift from 4-1 to 8-1.

The biggest outsider in the race, Millwood Classic at 66-1, pulled his way to the front and set the gallop ahead of The Big Ask and Pleasing Dancer with Argonaut racing comfortably with his big stride in fourth place. He was followed by Profit Report and Hit Song and the pace was a good one.

Millwood Classic still had the lead when they came off the false rail but Mark Khan was just biding his time and when he set Argonaut alight he produced a stunning burst of speed that carried him clear of the field to win by 2.5 lengths. Profit Report and Field Event stayed on well for the minor placings.

Eleven Year History

Year	1st	Kg	2nd	Kg	3rd	Kg	Time
1997	The Delegator (AUS)	56,0	Sports Special	56,0	Tree Line	56,0	113,40s
1998	Fort Defiance	56,0	Champion Chestnut (NZ)	56,0	Sharp Sword	56,0	108,10s
1999	The Sheik	56,0	Royal Exchange	56,0	Royal Saga	56,0	96,39s
2000	Celtic Grove	56,0	Montezuma	56,0	The Gard-Farder	56,0	96,40s
2001	Weston Blaze	56,0	Golden Dominion	56,0	Key Of Destiny	56,0	97,27s
2002	Bianconi	56,0	Dynasty	56,0	Goyougoodthinggo	56,0	96,50s
2003	Port Of London	57,0	Fallon	57,0	Play The Odds	57,0	84,10s
2004	National Spirit	57,0	Rough Reward	57,0	Zebra Crossing	57,0	83,66s
2005	Ndabeni	57,0	Chardin	57,0	First Flag	57,0	83,60s
2006	Fearless	57,0	Sovereign Circle	57,0	Infinite Spirit	57,0	83,21s
2007	Argonaut	57,0	Profit Report	57,0	Field Event	57,0	84.03s

Golden Slipper

R350 000 - SATURDAY, 5 JULY

A race for two-year-old fillies, it was first run in 1987 at Clairwood and it was initially known as the Post Golden Slipper. Contested over 1 400 metres until 1992, the distance was increased to 1 600 metres and the race was moved to Greyville where it was one of the features on Gold Cup Day. It has now been moved to the Vodacom

Durban July Day programme where it replaces the Thekwini Fillies Stakes which now forms part of All Stars Day at Clairwood on July 26. The Golden Slipper has had an elevation to its status now being confirmed as a Grade 1 with an increased stake of R350 000.

It has always been a hotly contested event and some outstanding fillies have won the race over the years including the likes of Fov's Dancer, Dance Every Dance, Arabian Lass and the superstar, Hoeberg.

2007

The Al Mufti filly Gilded Minaret was an impressive winner of her only start and was installed as favourite in spite of the presence of some top fillies in the race. They included State Factor and Glenrossal who were first and second in the SA Fillies Nursery, Strelitzia Stakes winner Stately, Kiss For Kate who had run second to Rat Burana in the Allan Robertson Fillies Championship and Supper Club who had waltzed to victory over 1 400m in the Debutante Stakes.

It was a top-class field and while Supper Club was backed in from 8-1 to 4-1, the bookies held Gilded Minaret firm at her opening price of 5-2.

Kiss For Kate, who had drifted out from 8-1 to 16-1, set a cracking pace from the start ahead of Mochachino, Stately and Glenrossal with Gilded Minaret nicely relaxed in midfield. When they moved through the 400m mark Kiss For Kate continued to lead by a length from Mochachino with Glenrossal and Stately next best and Gilded Minaret waiting to pounce a short way behind them.

When Weichong Marwing gave Gilded Minaret her head it was soon obvious there could be only one winner and she cruised to a comfortable win with State Factor running on to snatch second place by a neck from Kiss For Kate and Cleome.

Eleven Year History

Year	1 st	Kg	2 nd	Kg	3 rd	Kg	Time
1997	Next Edition	55,0	Savannah Queen	55,0	Queen Isolt (NZ)	55,0	98,80s
1998	Golden Silvino	55,0	Resounding	55,0	Gay Regina	55,0	97,27s
1999	Autumn Lodge (AUS)	57,0	Kokkewiet	57,0	Silky Dancer (AUS)	57,0	96,06s
2000	Hoeberg (NZ)	57,0	Child Model	57,0	Lotti	57,0	96,73s
2001	Tatler	57,0	Silver Moon	57,0	Bridal Paths	57,0	97,05s
2002	Dignify	57,0	Secret Heart			57,0	96,80s
		57,0	T-Model	Dead Heat			
2003	Warning Zone	57,0	Sabina Park	57,0	Jalberry	57,0	84,90s
2004	Princess Sassi	57,0	Legally Blonde	57,0	Royal Approval	57,0	84,31s
2005	Alexandra Rose	57,0	Veiled Essence	57,0	Bold Ellinore	57,0	85,40s
2006	Asylum Seeker	57,0	Ghost Writer	57,0	Bridget's Academy	57,0	84,50s
2007	Gilded Minaret	57,0	State Factor	57,0	Kiss For Kate	57,0	84,31s

Gold Vase

R300 000 - SATURDAY, 5 JULY

A crucial step for the big-chested runners looking to compete in Africa's premier marathon event, the R1-million, Grade 1 Canon Gold Cup in August, the Grade 2 Gold Vase is not only one of the major spectacles on Vodacom Durban July Day but is an important race for trainers preparing their runners for the big event on the first Saturday in August.

It enables runners from other provinces that have not completed the full circuit of the Greyville course in the past to familiarize themselves with the venue while trainers with runners that have yet to be tested over the marathon distance are able to evaluate their suitability and potential in a major 3 200m event.

First run in 1978 over 2 400m at Clairwood as the Clairwood Gold Vase and then the Premier's Gold Vase, the distance was increased to 2800m before it was moved to Greyville over a distance of 3 000m as a major event on Vodacom Durban July day.

Trainer Ricky Maingard, who now operates a stable in Mauritius, has an incredible record in the race having won it five times, three of those wins coming in successive years. Respectable gave him the honours in 1989 and 1991 and Sand filled the gap in 1990.

2007

Cape trainer Joey Ramsden has always done well with his stayers and he fielded a team of four runners with Omaha Beach looking the pick of them having run a close second to Apple-A-Day over 2 400m in the Lonsdale Stirrup Cup in his last start. Earlier in the year he had won the J&B Reserve Stayers over 2 800m at Kenilworth.

But there was plenty of talk about the Mike de Kock entry Thundering Star and he was installed as favourite for the race while Omaha Beach, Mr Brock, Modern Quest and Kayak all had their supporters.

The Ramsden runner Omega Code set the early gallop ahead of Wise Son, Bayete, Modern Quest and Cielo Et Mare with the fancied runners settling back in the field. Through the 600m mark Kayak tried to switch his position brushing Thundering Star who became cramped and was forced to ease.

That was not the only trouble the favourite would encounter as he was hampered again at the crucial 200m mark by Kipketer as he set after outsider Long Dollar who had stormed through from midfield in the straight to take the lead.

Weichong Marwing worked hard on Thundering Star but Jeff Lloyd had stolen his lead on the Weiho Marwing-trained Rakeen gelding and kept him going to win by half a length from Thundering Star, Omaha Beach and Kipketer.

Eleven Year History

Year	1st	Age	Kg	2nd	Age	Kg	3rd	Age	Kg	Time
1997	Midday Concert	5	55,5	Gold Planner	6	54,5	Eli's Truth	8	58,0	152,20s
1998	Al's Dancer	5	58,0	Coastal Flare	6	53,0	Royal Tours	4	52,0	155,27s
1999	Harvest Rose	4	51,0	Jump To Jupiter	5	51,5	Ess Five Beaches	4	55,5	180,97s
2000	Sequoiz	4	50,5	Darrerlhair	4	50,0	Technique	4	51,5	187,85s
2001	Reef Road	5	50,5	Full Press (AUS)	4	55,0	Cereus	4	54,5	186,36s
2002	Ship's Gossip	5	50,0	Northern Land	4	55,5	Top Billing	3	55,5	189,33s
2003	Amphitheatre	4	55,5	Highland Night	5	55,5	Almah	4	53,5	188,90s
2004	Double Reef (NZ)	7	55,0	Modern Quest	4	50,0	The Eiger Sanction	4	54,0	185,32s
2005	Cycad	4	52,0	Sharlee Boy	7	50,5	Saddlewood	4	59,0	189,00s
2006	Wise Son	3	50,0	Magical Ballad	4	50,0	Medicine Man	7	51,0	189,70s
2007	Long Dollar	5	52,5	Thundering Star	3	54,5	Omaha Beach	5	57,0	185,40s