



RACE HISTORY

With the four Grade 1 races over 1 200m offering total stake money of R1.7-million, this meeting brings together the top sprinters in the country. For the racing public, it is the ultimate expose of the absolute power of the magnificent thoroughbred in full flight.

The four Grade 1 sprints make up the Jackpot for the meeting. They are the R500 000 Golden Horse Casino Sprint, the R500 000 Gold Reef Resorts Medallion and the R350 000 Allan Robertson Fillies Championship for juveniles at level weights and the R350 000 South African Fillies Sprint for fillies and mares at weight-for-age.

The Scottsville 1 200m track is the most testing in the country with the first 500m being slightly downhill before the runners begin a gentle but steady climb up to the finish. It demands great skill by the riders in controlling the early pace to retain a reserve for the final thrust.

Many top horses have been beaten in the finish after being allowed to race too freely in the early stages.



R500 000 - SUNDAY, 31 MAY

First run in 1962, it was the first sponsored race in KwaZulu-Natal, as the Gilbey's Stakes over 1 200 metres with a stake of R7 000. The stake has risen steadily over the years and with the Golden Horse Casino sponsorship since 2002, the runners will now do battle for R400 000. The first running of the race was won by the four-year-old Zealous owned by Chris Saunders, former Chairman of Gold Circle, and trained by

Fred Rickaby with Duncan Alexander in the irons. Four-year-olds have had the best record in the race and only four fillies or mares – Scarlet Lady (1981), Sunera (1986), Bold West (1987) and Splendid Ann (1988) have been successful.

Only two horses have won the race twice, superstar Jet Master having won it for trainer Geoff Woodruff in 1999 and 2000 and before that, Dambuster in 1982 and 1984. Dambuster's first win was with trainer David Payne as a three-year-old owned by Mr and Mrs Graham Beck and starting at the generous odds of 14-1. He changed stables and in 1984 raced out of the stable of Ricky Maingard and, at 16-1, won for new owners W.P. Hepburn and O. Hennig.

The race was last run as the Gilbey's Stakes on June 30, 1996, and the following year carried the title Mabaleng Golden Spur. Since then it was the Golden Spur until 2002 when it became the Golden Horse Sprint.

2007

The field for this race included the unbeaten Jet Master gelding, Mythical Flight, whose champion sire is one of only two horses to have won this great race twice. Mythical Flight had literally thrashed all opposition in winning his seven races and while there was some doubt about his ability over 1 200m, he was the outright favourite at 8-10 when the gates burst open.

Rebel King, who had run second to Mythical Flight in the Computaform Sprint, was easy to back at 6-1 after drifting out from 5-2 and Kildonan, who looked better suited to more ground, started at 8-1 after a drift in the betting from 7-2.

In spite of his top weight of 60kg, Mythical Flight was taken to the front from the start. He has such great speed that he ran them all off their feet in the early stages but that might have been his downfall for he began to come under pressure from Kildonan as they climbed to the finish and the Rich Man's Gold colt had reeled him in by the 400m mark.

Mythical Flight continued to fight on in the finish but the staying power of Kildonan proved a touch too much and the champion was forced to settle for second place ahead of lightly-weighted War Artist. Kildonan set a new course record of 67 secs for the race and Mythical Flight was found to be lame near fore after the event

Eleven Year History

1997	July Day	4	53,0	Golden Loom	4	55,0	Shoe Express	5	54,5	67,89s
1998	Basic Instinct	6	55,0	Historic Lady	3	51,0	Golden Loom	5	58,0	67,94s
1999	Jet Master	4	58,0	Clifton King (NZ)	3	53,5	Super Magic	4	53,5	68,50s
2000	Jet Master	5	58,0	All Will Be Well	5	54,0	Fov's Favourite	6	57,0	69,31s
2001	Golden Loom	8	58,0	Mr Steadfast	4	50,0	Monastery	3	50,0	67,84s
2002	Hinterland	3	50,0	National Title	3	50,0	Nhlavini	4	55,5	67,62s
2003	Al Nitak	5	56,5	National Currency	3	54,5	Golden Loom	10	57,0	68,05s
2004	Key Of Destiny	5	52,5	Nhlavini	6	54,5	O Caesour	4	50,0	67,06s
2005	Cataloochee	3	53,0	Tornado King	6	53,5	Ball Sider	6	52,5	67,60s
2006	Let's Rock'n Roll	3	50,0	What A Question	3	52,5	Vega	4	56,5	68,06s
2007	Kildonan	3	57,5	Mythical Flight	3	60,0	War Artist	3	52,0	67,0s



R500 000 - SUNDAY, 31 MAY

The top two-year-old sprint race in South Africa, it was first run as the Smirnoff Plate in 1963 for a stake of R5 000 and was sponsored by Smirnoff, like the Gilbeys, until 1996. In 1989 the name was changed from the Smirnoff Plate to the Smirnoff Futurity and in 1991 it was changed again to the Smirnoff Sprint. For 1992 and 1993 it was the Smirnoff Bloodline Sprint and for two years it was staged as the Smirnoff Futurity. In 1996 it reverted to the Smirnoff Sprint and 1997 saw it run as the Mabaleng Gold Medallion. 2005 was the first year run under its new title.

Legendary trainer Terrance Millard has had the greatest success of any conditioner in this race having won it four times – Calvados (1978), Prontisimo (1984), Steaming Jungle (1989) and Empress Club (1991). Although only winning it once with King's Rhapsody in 1977, runners from the yard of trainer David Payne have been involved in the finish eight times. Retired trainer Herman Brown senior won the race twice – Glenever (1972) and Hot Guard (1992) - but eight other runners from his stable have finished in the money.

Former trainer Buller Benton won the race two years running with Recollect and High Frequency in 1967/68 and had five other placings. Jean Heming won it three times in the early eighties with Smackeroo, Moccasin and Shooting High, was second with Main Man in 1986 and third with De Koonig in 1989. The late Joe Joseph won it in 1964 with Amaze and in 1970 with Master Polly and was second with the legendary Sentinel in 1971.

Here again, only four fillies have won – Amazing Grace (1975), Empress Club (1991), Tracy's Element (1993) and Historic Lady (1997).

This prestigious two-year-old event has always been rated one of the best in the country and the race is now known as the Gold Reef Casino Resorts Medallion and, with the stake being doubled from R250 000 to R500 000, this Grade 1 race is now one of the opening legs of the South African All Stars Series Juvenile Championship with the other legs being the R500 000 Golden Horseshoe at Greyville and the R500 000 Premier's Champion Stakes at Clairwood.

2007

In spite of only having raced once in his life, the Western Winter colt Argonaut from the Geoff Woodruff yard was backed to 16-10 favourite from his opening call of 7-2 to depose the Charles Laird runner Seventh Rock who eased out from 5-2 to 3-1. Dennis Drier's Australian import Street Cat, who had won his second start by eight lengths, drew some good support to start joint second favourite with Seventh Rock at 3-1 with the balance of the field at 10-1 and better.

Seventh Rock had been fitted with blinkers for this race and he headed the field from the start. Mr Flatley and Sam Magee tried to go with him in the early stages with Argonaut sitting just behind them in the early stages.

Argonaut made his move with 200m to go and closed the gap to challenge strongly in the closing stages but Seventh Rock kept on fighting and held him at bay by a neck. The unfancied Golden Music came close to causing an upset at 50-1 when he put in a strong bid to finish about a half a length behind the winner.

Street Cat, who lost two lengths at the start, put in the fastest finish to take fourth place as Seventh Rock set a new race record of 67.72 secs.

Eleven Year History

Year	1 st	Kg	2 nd	Kg	3 rd	Kg	Time
1997	Historic Lady	53,5	Royal Jest	56,0	Super Magic	56,0	68,74s
1998	Explosive Burst (NZ)	56,0	Tartan Splendour	56,0	Walenska	56,0	69,00s
1999	Roaring Sands	57,0	Sugar Daddy	57,0	Deliberation	57,0	70,06s
2000	Royal Deed	57,0	Manipur	57,0	La Scala	57,0	69,92s
2001	Rip Curl	57,0	Rampant Royal	57,0	Millennium Diamond	57,0	69,15s
2002	National Currency	57,0	Suntagonal	57,0	War Lord	57,0	68,49s
2003	Ice Cube	57,0	Golden Care	57,0	Groundsman	57,0	68,27s
2004	Candidato Roy	57,0	Noble Rami	57,0	Marine Sands	57,0	69,04s
2005	Carnidore	57,0	Monsieur Dominique	57,0	Pegasus Emblem	57,0	68,39s
2006	Zeeno	57,0	Sovereign Circle	57,0	Divine Jury	57,0	68,06s
2007	Seventh Rock	57,0	Argonaut	57,0	Golden Music	57,0	67,72s

S A Fillies Sprint

R350 000 - SUNDAY, 31 MAY

Run for the first time in 1971 for a stake of R5 000, the weight-for-age event for fillies and mares was known originally as the Natal Fillies Sprint before being awarded higher status and named the South African Fillies Sprint in 1984. While retired trainer Herman Brown senior and the "maestro" Terrance Millard each saddled three winners of this race, the most impressive record in the race's history is that of breeder, the late Godfrey Gird. He bred the winner of six races - Indian Spice (1972), Justine (1973 and 1974), Mildenhall (1976 and 1977) and Paschal in 1980. Three other runners have won it twice. They were Geoff Woodruff's charge, Marie Galante, who took the honours in 1992 and 1993, Joie De Grise who was first across the line in 1998 and 1999 and

the brilliant mare, Laisserfaire, who was retired to stud after impressive wins in 2001 and 2002.

Jockeys Felix Coetzee and Glen Hatt each won the race three times while Brian Passmore and Michael Roberts were victorious twice.

2007

With the scratching of Disco Queen and Los Kop Doll the field was reduced to 12 runners and the four-year-old Jet Master filly Soft Landing from the Geoff Woodruff yard was seen by the bookmakers as the horse to beat. She opened at 2-1 but eased out to 28-10 when support came for the Vaughan Marshall runner Secret Of Victoria who shortened in from 5-1 to 7-2. There was a nibble for Ethereal Lady whose odds shortened from 8-1 to 6-1 with the balance of the field easy to back at 10-1 and better.

Soft Landing made the early running from Bold Ellinore, Secret Of Victoria and Mocha Java and they went at a pretty good pace. Glynn Schofield had the ride on Ethereal Lady with the Sean Tarry stable jockey Brett Smith on School Assembly.

Ethereal Lady sat just behind the leading group and made her move in the closing stages to win comfortably by 1.5 lengths in race record time. Outsider Maelstrom flashed up late to take second place ahead of Bold Ellinore and Chant De Nuit.

The win by Ethereal Lady gave Tarry and his owner Chris van Niekerk the race double having won the previous year with National Colour.

Ten Year History

Year	1 st	Age	Kg	2 nd	Age	Kg	3 rd	Age	Kg	Time
1997	Harry's Charm	4	57,0	Whistling Dixie	4	57,0	Noberly Born	5	57,0	68,75s
1998	Joie De Grise	3	55,5	Special Guest	3	55,5	Tetre Rouge	3	55,5	67,97s
1999	Joie De Grise	4	58,0	Fine Hope	3	56,5	Tetre Rouge	4	58,0	69,59s
2000	Scarena	5	58,0	Vogue	3	56,5	Petite Arbat	5	58,0	70,02s
2001	Laisserfaire	4	58,0	National Bay	3	56,5	Trojan Belle	3	56,5	68,49s
2002	Laisserfaire	5	58,0	Sleek Braashee	4	58,0	Park Lane	4	58,0	68,54s
2003	Enchantress	4	58,0	Sunset Glow	4	58,0	Tara's Touch	3	57,0	68,39s
2004	Overarching	4	58,0	Zolaroyale	4	58,0	Tycoon Rosita	4	58,0	68,49s
2005	Far De Vie	3	56,5	Overarching (USA)	5	58,0	Jalberry	4	58,0	68,16s
2006	National Colour	3	56,5	Disco Queen	4	58,0	Jazzy	3	56,5	67,79s
2007	Ethereal Lady	3	56,5	Maelstrom	4	58,0	Bold Ellinore	4	58,0	67,23s

Allan Robertson
Fillies Championship

R350 000 - SUNDAY, 31 MAY

This is the top sprint for juvenile fillies in the country and was first run for a stake of R5 000 as the Breeders Champion Fillies Stakes in 1964. In 1974 the name was changed to the Allan Robertson Fillies Championship after Mr Allan Robertson who founded the Thoroughbred Breeders Association of South Africa. In 1985 it was run as the Allan Robertson Breeders Futurity but has reverted to the Allan Robertson Fillies Championship.

The legendary Charlie Barends won the race three years running from 1964 to 1966 on Fantastic, Little Gambler and Avis and Michael Roberts has been successful three times as well on Rebellious (1975), Shelter (1976) and Breyani (1981).

Retired trainer Herman Brown senior scored three times with Queen Of Tonga (1969), Rebellious (1975) and Rock Star (1978) while Terrance Millard, the late Aubrey Roberts, David Payne and Johnny Dawson each saddled two winners.

2007

The Brazilian filly Rat Burana, who was a facile winner of her only start, opened joint favourite with Glenrossal. State Factor and Animated were at 7-2, Indian Express at 7-1 and the balance 10-1 and better. While State Factor remained firm at 7-2 to eventually start favourite, Rat Burana and Animated eased in the betting to 4-1 with Glenrossal going out to 5-1 and Indian Express to 8-1.

State Factor made the early running from 14-1 chance Kiss For Kate and Animated and 400m out Kiss For Kate took a narrow lead. Rat Burana was still a couple of lengths off the leaders at this stage but when Weichong Marwing gave the filly her head, the picture changed quickly and the race was on for second place as Rat Burana cruised clear to set a new race record of 67.67 secs which was a fraction quicker than that set by the colts.

Kiss For Kate stayed on to be a clear second ahead of State Factor and Glenrossal.

Eleven Year History

Year	1st	Kg	2nd	Kg	3rd	Kg	Time
1997	Readallaboutit	56,0	Night Cap	56,0	Fine Feather	56,0	69,03s
1998	Ruby Clipper (NZ)	56,0	Truthofthematter	56,0	Happy Harriet	56,0	67,77s
1999	Private Reserve	56,0	Divine Nymph	56,0	Marquette	56,0	69,57s
2000	Forward Filly	57,0	Aria	57,0	Secret To Success	57,0	70,42s
2001	Dare To Deam	57,0	Imperial Triumph	57,0	Candy Box	57,0	69,32s
2002	Paraca (Arg)	57,0	Oceana	57,0	Summer Frolic	57,0	68,55s
2003	Silver Arc	57,0	Main Emblem	57,0	Hello Margarita	57,0	68,22s
2004	Legally Blonde	57,0	Glittering Idol	57,0	World Of Stars	57,0	69,59s
2005	Rock Opera	57,0	Secret Of Victoria	57,0	Careful Landing	57,0	68,22s
2006	Trust Antonia	57,0	Sally Bowles	57,0	Ghost Writer	57,0	69,42s
2007	Rat Burana	57,0	Kiss Me Kate	57,0	State Factor	57,0	67,67s