

GAUTENG GUINEAS (GRADE 2) - R1,000,000 - 1600m - Turffontein
1st R625,000, 2nd R200,000, 3rd R100,000 - February 2

1. NATIONAL PARK

3yo b.g. by Gimmethgreenlight - Fancy Park (Camden Park)
2nd dam: Passing Fancy (Royal Prerogative)
3rd dam: Buheyseh (Gaskell)
Owners: B Ressel, F H McGrath, M C Wright and Missing U Syndicate
Bred by Missing U Syndicate
Trainer: Y Bremner
Jockey: R Fourie

2. Hawwaam

3yo b.c. by Silvano - Halfway To Heaven (Jet Master)
Owner: Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Bred by Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein

3. Barahin

3yo b.c. by Gimmethgreenlight - Mocha Special (Silvano)
Owner: Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Bred by Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein

Then came: Zillzaal, Vontreo, Owlinthetree, Green Haze, Approach Control, Alyaasaat (Aus), Chijmes, Rocky Night, Marchingontoegether, Against The Grain, Stream Ahead, Arlingtons Revenge
Won by: 2.75 - 2 - 0.50
Time: 1-39,25

To say that Port Elizabeth raider NATIONAL PARK caused an upset in the Gr2 Gauteng Guineas at Turffontein would be an understatement.

Mike de Kock's Hawwaam was widely expected to maintain his undefeated record in the first leg of the Triple Crown, however National Park spoiled his party in spectacular fashion. The son of boom sire Gimmethgreenlight raced handy throughout, strode into the lead 300m from home and immediately shot clear. Hawwaam meanwhile faced an impossible task having cornered at least a dozen lengths off the pace and although he made up a good deal in the yielding going, his challenge fell short by almost three lengths at the line.

Take nothing away from the winner, who had made the trek to Johannesburg for the second time in three months. A runaway winner of the 1400m Gr3 Graham Beck Stakes in early November, he was soundly beaten in the Gr2 Dingaans when fourth, more than seven lengths behind Hawwaam. Bowed but not beaten, he has returned in a blaze of glory and having proven his prowess over a mile, the extra furlong of the Gr1 SA Classic looks well within his scope. That Hawwaam will be out for revenge, goes without saying.

Successful in six of 11 starts, National Park is racing's newest millionaire. Out of the six-time winner Fancy Park, he was bred by co-owner Rob Knuppe's Missing U Syndicate and is much the best in his family for several generations.

WILGERBOSDRIFT GAUTENG FILLIES GUINEAS (GRADE 2) - R750,000 - 1600m - Turffontein
1st R468,750, 2nd R150,000, 3rd R75,000 - February 2

1. NAFAAYES (AUS)

3yo b.f. by Exceed And Excel - Decelerator (Dehere)
2nd dam: Paris Rose (Accelerator)
3rd dam: Fabulous Notion (Somethingfabulous)
Owner: Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Bred by Kia Ora Stud
Trainer: M F de Kock
Jockey: W Kennedy

2. Running Brave

3yo b.f. by Brave Tin Soldier - Movingandgrooving (Jet Master)
Owners: F Bronkhorst and H L Neethling
Bred by Summerhill Stud (Pty) Ltd

3. Celtic Sea

3yo b.f. by Captain Al - Ireland (Mark Of Esteem)

Owners: Mr A R and Mrs A B L Beck
Bred by Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein
Then came: Ronnie's Candy, Chitengo, Dagmar, Railtrip, Perfect Tigress, Vistula, Blossom, Storm
Destiny, Scent Of Evening, I Like It, Cordillera, Just Chaos, Saints Alive
Non-runners: Mazaari, Vi Va Pi Pa
Won by: shorthead - 1.25 - head
Time: 1-39,9

Sheikh Hamdan's talented NAFAAYES landed the first leg of the Triple Tiara with a hard-fought victory in the Gr2 Gauteng Fillies Guineas. Notwithstanding the fact that she had not raced since winning the Gr2 Ipi Tombe Challenge on 1 December, the three-year-old was sent off a warm favourite and came from just off the pace to draw alongside Paul Matchett's Running Brave at the 150m mark. She then had to pull out all the stops to contain her resurgent rival, who fought back gamely and applied pressure all the way to the line. In a heads-up-heads-down finish, Nafaayes won the battle by a shorthead.

"Considering she hasn't run since the Ipi Tombe, she was probably entitled to get a bit tired at the end," winning trainer Mike de Kock remarked.

The dual Gr2 winner has now won three of six starts and is likely to return for the Gr1 SA Fillies Classic on 2 March, which will be contested over an additional furlong.

Bred in Australia, Nafaayes is by successful shuttle stallion Exceed And Excel, who topped the Australian General sires list in 2012-13. Her dam, the triple American stakes winner Decelerator, scored a career best in Churchill Park's Gr3 Debutante Stakes. She is out of Paris Rose, a half-sister to Gr1 Test Stakes victress Fabulously Fast (Deputy Minister) and to the dam of Gr1 Malibu Stakes winner City Of Light (Quality Road). Third dam Fabulous Notion won the Gr1 Santa Susanna Stakes and is a half-sister to Gr1 Turf Classic hero and Gr1 Derby third Cacoethes (Alydar).

TOMMY HOTSPUR HANDICAP (GRADE 3) - R250,000 - 1000m - Turffontein
1st R156,250, 2nd R50,000, 3rd R25,000 - February 17

1. DOWN TO ZERO

4yo b.g. by Judpot - Armatrading (Var)
2nd dam: Aretha (Centenary)
3rd dam: Aigrette (Ginistrelli)
Owners: P J Cotterell, A D Carr and J A Carr
Bred by T D Andrews
Trainer: M and A Azzie
Jockey: M van Rensburg

2. Prince Of Kahal

4yo ch.g. by Kahal - Lady Red (Russian Revival)
Owner: R W S Chung
Bred by Clifton Stud

3. Rebel's Champ

4yo ch.g. by Rebel King - Anne Bonny (Captain Al)
Owner: Hyperpaint Syndicate
Bred by Nine Bridges Association

Then came: Donny G, Rivarine, Exquisite Touch, Great Shaka, Tandava, Valbonne, Cathedral County, Rocky Valley, Premier Show, Pure Blonde, Isphan
Non-runners: Red Chesnut Road, Chantyman
Won by: neck - 1.75 - longhead
Time: 57,51

Unheralded Judpot four-year-old DOWN TO ZERO sparked something of a surprise when taking the Tommy Hotspur in his first start as a gelding.

Following a disappointing last in the Gr3 Lebelo Sprint, the Azzie-trained runner promptly belied his generous odds with a determined first stakes success in the 1000m dash. The blinkered bay tracked pacesetter Great Shaka through the quarter mark where he delivered his challenge. Once in the clear, he kept going strongly and although Prince Of Kahal gave plenty of late cheek, the Azzie charge stuck to his guns to score rather cosily.

Down To Zero had flashed his talent earlier in his career when runner-up in last season's Gr3 Man O'War Sprint, but as Mike Azzie explained: *"While he's always had the mettle to win a race like this, he is a heavy horse, thick in the neck. He became coltish, hence the patchiness in his form, and I recommended to his owners we geld him last December. This has obviously done the trick for him and he won with a bit in hand. We'd like to aim him at the Computaform Sprint next."*

A R220,000 graduate of the Mistico Yearling Sale, Down To Zero was bred by Terry Andrews out of the winning Var mare Armatrading, dam also of smart three-year-old Elusive Trader (Elusive Fort), who went down by a head in this season's Listed Sophomore Sprint. The mare is a half-sister to Nocturnal Affair (Victory Moon), a dual Gr3 winner in South Africa, who also scored in Dubai before making his way to Ireland where he landed the Mercury Stakes at Dundalk.

KHAYA STABLES DIADEM STAKES (GRADE 2) - R400,000 - Kenilworth

1st R250,000, 2nd R80,000, 3rd R40,000 - February 23

1. KASIMIR

4yo b.g. by Captain Al - Aquatint (Peintre Celebre)

2nd dam: Sakieh (Green Desert)

3rd dam: Sigy (Habitat)

Owners: W P Drew, B Kantor and Mesdames A M Doyle, D Nagle and P Shanahan

Bred by Drakenstein Stud

Trainer: S J Snaith

Jockey: R Fourie

2. Speedpoint

4yo b.c. by Var - Cash Register (Casey Tibbs)

Owners: B P and Mrs K Finch

Bred by Drakenstein Stud

3. Chimichuri Run

3yo ch.c. by Trippi - Spiced Gold (Kahal)

Owner: C J H van Niekerk

Bred by Drakenstein Stud

Then came: Bold Respect, Sand And Sea, Russet Air, Elusive Trader, Trip To Heaven, Dutch Philip, Tevez, Sergeant Hardy, Search Party, Attenborough, Silicone Valley

Won by: shorthead - 1 - 1.25

Time: 70,90

The unkindest cut of all has certainly brought out the best in KASIMIR. Gelded in June, the Captain Al four-year-old has not looked back since, winning three races, all at Graded level, albeit that he had to dig down deep for victory in a thrilling finish to the Diadem.

Justin Snaith's runner locked horns with Chimichuri Run approaching the final victory, but flying up on the outside came an electrified Speedpoint and the winner immediately had a race on his hands. In a driving finish, Kasimir had to draw on all his reserves and the line came just in time, as he held on to win by a whisker to deny Brian and Kay Finch a Graded double on the day. Their Rose In Bloom had won the Gr3 Prix du Cap 30 minutes earlier.

Hats off to the winner, who thus completed the Cape Summer's speed treble, having already bagged the Gr2 Merchants and the Gr1 Cape Flying Championship. He will now enjoy a well-earned rest before tackling the rich sprints during the KZN winter season.

Remarkably, the result was a clean sweep for Drakenstein Stud, breeders of the first three past the post. They sold Kasimir for R1.2-million at the Cape Yearling Sale.

One of 19 Gr1 winners sired by the late Captain Al, Kasimir is also the second elite winner produced by Australian import Aquatint, whose previous foals include Gr1 Golden Horseshoe hero Afrikaburn (Trippi) and Gr2-placed The Slade (Philanthropist).

Grandam Sakieh is a daughter of the lightning-quick Sigy, the champion French juvenile who scored a career-high victory in the Gr1 Prix de l'Abbaye at Longchamp.

VASCO PRIX DU CAP (GRADE 3) - R250,000 - 1400m - Kenilworth

1st R156,250, 2nd R50,000, 3rd R25,000 - February 23

1. ROSE IN BLOOM

4yo b.f. by Gimmethgreenlight - Raise The Bar (Goldkeeper)

2nd dam: Moving On Up (Jallad)

3rd dam: Eternal Dancer (National Assembly)

Owners: Mr B P and Mrs K Finch

Bred by Ridgemont Highlands

Trainer: J Ramsden

Jockey: S Khumalo

2. **Anime**

5yo b.m. by Count Dubois - Rei Rei (Doowaley)

Owners: M I Fullard and J H Drew

Bred by Ridgemont Stud

3. **Platinum Class**

4yo b.f. by Silvano - Express Queen (Jet Master)

Owner: Drakenstein Stud

Bred by Wilgerbosdrift and Mauritzfontein

Then came: Love To Boogie, Dynamic Diana, Shamrock Wind, Red Ginger, Sugar Girl, Goodtime Gal, Miss Katalin, Too Phat To Fly, Varsity Lover, Love Supreme, Steffi's Graft

Won by: 0.50 - 1.25 - longhead

Time: 1-25,60

Maturity has certainly brought out the best in ROSE IN BLOOM. Runner-up in last year's race, Joey Ramsden's four-year-old made no mistake when she ran out a fluent winner of the Gr3 Prix Dup Cap. Sent out a favourite, she was patiently ridden by Khumalo and after drawing alongside long-time leader Anime inside the final furlong, she drew clear to score rather more cosily than the half-length margin suggests.

This was a second stakes success of the season for the five-time winner and boosted her earnings to over R865,000. That it was a well-deserved first Graded success for the filly goes without saying. Winner also of the Iridescence Stakes as a juvenile, she more than held her own against the best at three, chasing home multiple Gr1 winner Snowdance in the Gr1 Majorca Stakes, as well as running second in the Gr2 Sceptre Stakes and Gr3 Prix Du Cap. She spent the early part of the current season in Johannesburg and more than repaid the travelling expense with a stylish victory in the Listed Gardenia.

Rose In Bloom is yet another fine advert for Varsfontein's red hot stallion Gimmethgreenlight, sire also of Gr2 Gauteng Guineas hero National Park.

Bred at Highlands Farms, the filly is the first foal out of the smart racemare Raise The Bar, a stakes winner of eight races. A granddaughter of dual Champagne Stakes victress Eternal Dancer, she has a yearling filly by Captain Al.

SA CLASSIC (GRADE 1) - R2,000,000 - 1800m - Turffontein

1st R1,250,000, 2nd R400,000, 3rd R200,000 - March 2

1. **HAWWAAM**

3yo b.c. by Silvano - Halfway To Heaven (Jet Master)

2nd dam: Pas De Basque (Rambo Dancer)

3rd dam: Our Elegant Girl (Our Casey's Boy)

Owner: Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Bred by Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein

Trainer: M F de Kock

Jockey: G Lerena

2. **Barahin**

3yo b.c. by Gimmethgreenlight - Mocha Special (Silvano)

Owner: Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Bred by Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein

3. **National Park**

3yo b.g. by Gimmethgreenlight - Fancy Park (Camden Park)

Owners: B Ressel, F H McGrath, M C Wright and Missing U Syndicate

Bred by Missing U Syndicate

Then came: Zillzaal, Approach Control, Atyaab (Aus), Owlinthetree, Alyaasaat (Aus), Roll Of Drums

Won by: 5.75 - 1.50 - 4

Time: 1-49,35

Back to his sublime best, highly-touted three-year-old HAWWAAM pulverized a small but classy field to register a first Gr1 success in the second leg of the Triple Crown.

In contrast to the Guineas, Sheikh Hamdan's colt raced far more prominently and came from mid-field to lay down his challenge in mid-straight. Briefly joined by Guineas winner National Park, he immediately asserted himself and having hit the front a furlong out, it was race over as he powered away to score by the best part of six lengths from stable companion Barahin.

The winner thus set the record straight after losing his undefeated status when runner-up in the Guineas and this hugely impressive performance suggests he will be leading contender for the Gr1 SA Derby on March 30. His four wins from five starts also include victories in the Gr2 Dingaans and Gr3 Tony Ruffel Stakes.

Hawwaam is one of 21 locally-bred Gr1 winners for three-time champion stallion Silvano, sire also of German Derby hero Lucky Speed. Shadwell had outlayed an even million to acquire the Wilgerbosdrift/Mauritzfontein-bred colt on the final day of the 2017 National Yearling Sale.

Out of Gr3 winner Halfway To Heaven, the colt is a half-brother to Gr1 Met hero Rainbow Bridge (Ideal World). With her first two foals both top level winners, it would be an understatement to say that the daughter of the formidable seven-time champion sire Jet Master has made a sensational start to her broodmare career and she must rate a strong candidate for Broodmare of the Year honours. The mare's third foal is a juvenile colt by Philanthropist, she has a yearling filly and a weanling colt by Silvano and is currently in foal to Querari.

WILGERBOSDRIFT SA FILLIES CLASSIC (GRADE 1) - R1,000,000 - 1800m - Turffontein
1st R625,000, 2nd R200,000, 3rd R100,000 - March 2

1 RETURN FLIGHT

3yo b.f. by Pomodoro - Heading Home (Special Preview)

2nd dam: Seeking Shelter (Hard Up)

3rd dam: Windy Ridge (Golden Thatch)

Owner: C J H van Niekerk

Bred by M Sharkey

Trainer: S G Tarry

Jockey: A Marcus

2. Nafaayes (AUS)

3yo b.f. by Exceed And Excel - Decelerator (Dehere)

Owner: Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Bred by Kia Ora Stud

3. Blossom

3yo b.f. by Silvano - Cherry On The top (Tiger Ridge)

Owners: Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein

Bred by owners

Then came: Storm Destiny, Perfect Tigress, Running Brave, Chitengo, Skye Lane, Dagmar, Second Request, I Like It, Ronnie's Candy

Won by: 0.75 - longhead - 0.50

Time: 1-52,09

Last season's champion juvenile filly RETURN FLIGHT snapped a three-race losing streak with a game, start to finish victory in the second leg of the Triple Tiara.

Under a perfect ride from ace jockey Anton Marcus, the confirmed frontrunner set her own pace and momentarily looked in trouble when wandering off a straight course inside the final furlong, allowing favourite Nafaayes to draw alongside. However, Marcus soon had her back on an even keel and she rallied to draw off for a gutsy victory, her second at the highest level.

The Chris van Niekerk colour bearer had capped a fine juvenile campaign with a Gr1 score in the Thekwini Stakes but she had gone winless in three starts this season.

"She had some issues and wasn't quite right, which meant she had to miss the Guineas. Thank goodness it all fell into place today," remarked winning trainer Sean Tarry.

Return Flight is from the first crop of Van Niekerk's former SA Derby and Durban July winner Pomodoro, who likewise was trained by Tarry. While Van Niekerk has placed enormous faith in the son of Jet Master both as a breeder and a buyer, Return Flight cost him a mere R20,000 as a

yearling, a price influenced no doubt by the fact that she was the second lot into the ring. Considering her current earnings of R1,450,725, that's pocket change to put it mildly.

Bred by Highlands Farm stud manager Mike Sharkey, Return Flight is the first stakes winner out of Gr3-placed Heading Home. Grandam Seeking Shelter is a half-sister to Mountain High (Complete Warrior), the dam of Yellowwood Handicap heroine Sheer Fall (Fine Edge) while another half-sister Sportingly (Sportsworld) bred stakes winner Competitor (Tara's Halls). Third dam Windy Ridge (Golden Thatch) is an unraced half-sister to dual champion Up The Creek (Royal Prerogative), whose eight wins included the Gr1 SA Fillies Guineas, Gr1 Paddock Stakes and two renewals of the Gr1 Garden Province Stakes.

HAWAII STAKES (GRADE 2) - R400,000 - 1400m - Turffontein
1st R250,000, 2nd R80,000, 3rd R40,000 - March 2

1. ZOUAVES

5yo b.g. by Sail From Seattle - Zayna (Jallad)
2nd dam: Zanaykiya (Doyoun)
3rd dam; Zanata (African Sky)
Owners: Mesdames A Devanchander and C Woodruff
Bred by Danika Stud
Trainer: G V Woodruff
Jockey: M van Rensburg

2. Cascapedia (IRE)

5yo b.m. by High Chaparral - Janoubi (Dansili)
Owner: Mauritzfontein (Pty) Ltd
Bred by Camas Park Stud

3. Soqrat (AUS)

3yo b.c. by Epaulette - Elzeeza (Hussonet)
Owner: Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid al Maktoum
Bred by Shadwell Stud Australasia Ltd

Then came: Captain And Master, New Caledonia, Al Danza, Red Chesnut Road, Infamous Fox (Aus), Full Mast, Doosra, Will Pays, Captain Aldo, Arabian Beat

Won by: neck - longhead - 1

Time: 1-23,75

Unheralded ZOUAVES caused a stir in the Gr2 Hawaii Stakes with a late-charging victory over the fancied De Kock pair Soqrat and Cascapedia.

Star three-year-old Soqrat, unraced since his smashing second in the Gr1 Queen's Plate on January 5, was backed as if victory was a given but after striking the front a furlong from home, he was soon in trouble as stable companion Cascapedia drew alongside. However, neither had an answer to the whirlwind finish from Zouaves, who swooped late to take the honours by a neck.

The newly-minted stakes winner had picked up his first black type when third in the Listed Wolf Power Handicap over a mile.

His victory underlined the premature loss of former Ascot Stud stallion Sail From Seattle, who was only twelve when he died in 2015. A stakes winner by Gone West out of a half-sister to American champion sire Smart Strike, Sail From Seattle counts the Gr1 winners Elusive Gold, Gulf Storm and Sail South amongst a tally of ten stakes winners.

Trainer Geoff Woodruff snapped up Zouaves for R225,000 as a yearling from Danika Stud's Nicky Bartlett, who bred the gelding from the Jallad mare Zayna, a winning half-sister to the Gr1-placed juveniles Zanzamar (Fort Wood) and Ziparana (Trippi). This is the Aga Khan family of Zeddaan and French 1000 Guineas victress Zalaiyka.

ACACIA HANDICAP (GRADE 3) - R250,000 - 1600m - Turffontein
1st R156,250, 2nd R50,000, 3rd R25,000 - March 2

1. HIGH SEAS BEAUTY (AUS)

5yo b.m. by High Chaparral - Attesa (Belong To Me)
2nd dam: Arborea (Imperial Prince)
3rd dam: Open Question (Alleged)

Owner: T P M Blyth
Bred by Fairway Thoroughbreds NSW
Trainer: Miss D N Stenger
Jockey: R Fourie

2. Anneka

3yo b.f. by Gimmethgreenlight - Alula (Western Winter)
Owners: C J H van Niekerk and B G Gardner
Bred by Lammerskraal Stud

3. Cashel Palace

4yo b.f. by Fort Wood - Ireland (Mark Of Esteem)
Owners: Estate Late M C Gerber
Bred by Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein

Then came: Tamarina, Being Fabulous (Aus), Insignis, Camphoratus, Silver Thursday, Strawberry Pavlova, Greener Pastures, Flying Fable, Cold Cash

Non-runner: Aurelia Cotta

Won by: 1.75 - 0.50 - 1.50

Time: 1-38,90

When Clifton Stud owner Peter Blyth outlaid R110,000 on HIGH SEAS BEAUTY at an end-of-season horses in training sale in July, the High Chaparral filly was slated to join his broodmare band. A two-time winner and placed six times from just 10 starts at the time of purchase, the Australian-bred appealed as a daughter of a high-class stallion with a decent female line an added plus.

Peter took her home and discovered that the filly was suffering from a tender back. Physiotherapy soon sorted out that problem and with relatively low mileage on the clock, the decision was made to return her to the track.

Peter felt she needed a woman's more sympathetic handling - *"she needed a girly trainer"*, as he put it - and he duly sent her to the Randjiesfontein stable of Di Stenger, together with the retired gelding Tern Unstoned who, as Peter explained *"is her travelling and working companion and goes wherever she goes."*

The now five-year-old mare has not looked back since and has added another three wins to her tally, the most valuable of which a first black type victory in the Gr3 Acacia Handicap. Under Richard Fourie, the bay came alive in the straight and stormed past her rivals to score by the best part of two lengths.

Now a five-time winner, High Seas Beauty is out of Atessa, an American-bred daughter of the dual Australian classic winner Arborea, who also produced the South African stakes winner Delta Form. By Marscay, he was exported to the US, where he landed a Gr2 at Del Mar and was twice Gr1-placed.

SENIOR SANTA STAKES (GRADE 2) - R400,000 - 1160m - Turffontein

1st R250,000, 2nd R80,000, 3rd R40,000 - March 16

1. MARDI GRAS

4yo gr.g. by Oratorio - Sarabande (Goldmark)

2nd dam: Blitz Polka (Truely Nureyev)

3rd dam: Meg's Retreat (Proclaim)

Owners: J Nassif, A Fouche, A Joannides, M Liontarides, G J and Z L Nassif, L and W Zackey and Mrs H Kuhn

Bred by Avontuur Thoroughbred Farm

Trainer: J J van Vuuren

Jockey: R Simons

2. Prince Of Kahal

4yo ch.g. by Kahal - Vogue (Model Man)

Owner: R W S Chung

Bred by Clifton Stud

3. Exquisite Touch

5yo b.m. by Var - Lavender Sky (Elliodor)

Owner: C J H van Niekerk

Bred by Waterford Stud

Then came: Schippers, Down To Zero, Rivarine, Billy Silver, Trip To Heaven, Cirillo, Green Plains, Romi's Boy, Champagne Haze, Donny G, Tandava, Red Chesnut Road, Bull Valley

Non-runner: Pure Blonde
Won by: 2.50 - 1.25 - 0.50
Time: 65,65

Making his first foray into stakes company, MARDI GRAS opened his stakes account with a powerful victory in the Gr2 Senor Santa Stakes. Always in the vanguard, the blinkered grey delivered the knockout punch a long way out and never relinquished the lead to win going away. Tommy Hotspur runner-up Prince Of Kahal again had to settle for second.

Now a six-time winner, Mardi Gras has finished out of the frame just twice in thirteen starts, both times when racing beyond six furlongs. Originally the R3.2 million joint top-seller at the 2016 Emperors Palace Select Yearling Sale, he changed hands following the Mayfair Speculators unbundling. His sire, Avontuur Stud resident Oratorio, made it a clean sweep when Divine Odyssey claimed the Listed Drum Star Handicap barely half an hour later to make it a feature double for Johan Janse van Vuuren.

Bred by Avontuur, Mardi Gras is certainly living up to his pedigree, being the fourth stakes performer out of Gr1 Majorca victress Sarabande. To Fort Wood she produced the Gr2/3 winner and Gr1 Durban July third Chesalon, whilst Var is the sire of Bauhinia Stakes victress La Volta and Gr1 Allan Robertson third Valeta, who is already the dam of Gr3 Starling Stakes winner and Gr1 Garden Province second She's A Giver (Philanthropist).

H F OPPENHEIMER HORSE CHESTNUT STAKES (GRADE 1) - R1,250,000 - 1600m - Turffontein 1st R781,250, 2nd R250,000, 3rd R125,000 - March 30

1. SOQRAT (AUS)

3yo b.c. by Epaulette – Elzeeza (Hussonet)
2nd dam: Lunasong (Unbridled's Song)
3rd dam: Lunaliona (Caerleon)
Owner: Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid al Maktoum,
Bred by Shadwell Stud Australasia Ltd
Trainer: M F de Kock
Jockey: R Simons

2. Cirillo

3yo b.c. by Pomodoro - Miss Wordsworth (Lake Coniston)
Owner: C J H van Niekerk
Bred by Riverton Stud

3. Unagi

5yo ch.g. by Admire Main - Cariad (Northern Guest)
Owners: Mrs J P Gardner and Messrs P Chetty, B G Gardner, G P Sadie and D A Simpson
Bred by Summerhill Stud (Pty) Ltd

Then came: Tilbury Fort, Cascapedia (Ire), Al Danza, Legal Eagle, Zouaves, Alyaasaat (Aus), Doosra, Will Pays

Won by: 0.75 - 2.25 - longhead
Time: 1-38,24

Cape Guineas winner SOQRAT announced himself a pretender to the throne of champion miler with a victory which in truth rang in a changing of the guard. Amongst the vanquished was Legal Eagle (Greys Inn), who has reigned as the country's dominant miler for the last four seasons and was attempting to claim the mile event for an unprecedented fourth time. It was not to be, the gallant seven-year-old suffering his third successive defeat.

Soqrata was made to work for victory by fellow three-year-old Cirillo, the pair joining in a torrid dog-fight a long way out. The latter applied pressure up to the final furlong but in the closing stages, Sheikh Hamdan's colt proved his superiority and drew away to claim the honours by just under a length. The pair finished well clear of Unagi, who had also finished third in last year's race.

This was a third top level success for last season's champion juvenile colt, who also finished a smashing second in the Gr1 Queen's Plate, where he went down by a neck to the year-older champion Do It Again. Coming off a two-month rest, he returned to action on 2 March and was not disgraced when third, beaten a half-length in the 1400m Gr2 Hawaii Stakes.

A Shadwell homebred, Soqrata hails from the first crop of Danehill's Gr1 winning grandson and shuttler Epaulette. From the female line of successful sire Linamix, the colt is out of the dual winner Elzeeza,

who has a juvenile filly by Redoute's Choice named Hafaawa and a yearling colt by Snitzel. She in turn is out of Hawkesbury Guineas second Lunasong, a half-sister to Morphettville Guineas winner Lunaspur (Flying Spur), the dam of Gr2 winners Moonovermanhattan and Colorado Claire (dam of last season's Gr2 Todman Stakes winner Gunnison), stakes-placed Moonlight Hussey and Lunar Lady, the dam of Gr3 Champagne Stakes heroine Selenia (Not A Single Doubt).

SA DERBY (GRADE 1) - R2,000,000 - 2450m - Turffontein
1st R1,250,000, 2nd R400,000, 3rd R200,000 - March 30

1. SAMURAI WARRIOR

3yo ch.c. by Ideal World - Bangor Bay (Casey Tibbs)
2nd dam: Resolution Bay (Caesour)
3rd dam: Miss Mags (Straight Strike)
Owners: Mr L and Mrs H Potgieter
Bred by Hemel 'N Aarde Stud
Trainer: W H Marwing
Jockey: P Strydom

2. Zillzaal

3yo b.c. by Silvano - Zulaal (Giant's Causeway)
Owner: Al Adiyat (Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Maktoum)
Bred by owner

3. Marchingontoegether

3yo b.c. by Pathfork - Souen (Montjeu)
Owners: E A Budlender, B A Bracher, M R Bracher, V Govender, P R Rencken, Dr R H
Katzwinkel and Team G Racing
Bred by Jagessar Limited

Then came: Atyaab (Aus), Senor Lizard, Arlingtons Revenge, Master Magic, Zanaki, Last Of The Legend, Gift For The Gap, Owlinthetree, Duke Of Spin

Non-runner: Hawwaam

Won by: 1 - longhead - 0.50

Time: 2-39,55

As far as sheer drama was concerned, nothing beat the 2019 renewal of the SA Derby. Before the off, the classic lost hot favourite Hawwaam, who was withdrawn after taking fright in the paddock and back-peddalling through the rails. Further drama was to follow, with the winner SAMURAI WARRIOR having to survive a race review.

Renowned master of pace Pierre Strydom worked his magic and the blinkered son of Ideal World was never headed as he set his own fractions up front. Although drifting off a straight line in the closing stages, he ran on resolutely to cross the line a length ahead of his rivals.

Strydom, who had been aboard the Oaks winner Return Flight a half hour earlier, admitted he had no qualms in taking the colt to the front as he had already proven his stamina when third in the 2400m Listed Aquanaut Handicap against older horses. Also, with the exception of Trial winner Gift For The Gap, the balance of the runners were all tackling the Derby trip for the first time. The gamble paid off and resulted in not just a first Gr1 success for the winner, it also proved a wonderful wedding anniversary present for the colt's owners!

This was a second Derby victory for trainer Weiho Marwing, who also tightened the girth on 2013 winner, Wylie Hall. Remarkably, the son of Redoute's Choice, now a freshman sire at Cheveley Stud, enjoyed a first Graded success as a sire when his juvenile son Twilight Moon won the Gr3 Protea Stakes earlier on the card.

Samurai Warrior is the third Gr1 winner for Mauritzfontein's Ideal World, sire also of Hawwaam's half-brother, this season's Gr.1 Sun Met hero Rainbow Bridge.

Bred at Hemel 'N Aarde Stud, the colt is out of Bangor Bay, a winning half-sister to Gr1 Paddock Stakes victress Emerald Cove (Captain Al).

Sadly, fate struck a cruel blow, for barely a month after his Derby victory, Samurai Warrior was found dead in his stall, having suffered a suspected heart attack

WILGERBOSDRIFT SA OAKS (GRADE 2) - R1,000,000 - 2450m - Turffontein
1st R625,000, 2nd R200,000, 3rd R100,000 - March 30

1 RETURN FLIGHT

3yo b.f. by Pomodoro - Heading Home (Special Preview)

2nd dam: Seeking Shelter (Hard Up)

3rd dam: Windy Ridge (Golden Thatch)

Owner: C J H van Niekerk

Bred by M Sharkey

Trainer: S G Tarry

Jockey: P Strydom

2. Blossom

3yo b.f. by Silvano - Cherry On The Top (Tiger Ridge)

Owners: Mauritzfontein (Pty) Ltd and Wilgerbosdrift (Pty) Ltd

Bred by owners

3. Seville Orange

3yo ch.f. by Duke Of Marmalade - Serruria (Galileo)

Owner: Drakenstein Stud

Bred by owner

Then came: Bize, Chitengo, Pretty Border, Second Request, Red Al, Fariha (Aus)

Won by: 1.75 - 1 - 1

Time: 2-41,78

Asked to go the Oaks trip for the first time, RETURN FLIGHT ventured into uncharted waters, however, she passed the test with flying colours by slamming her rivals in no uncertain terms, albeit in a time 11 seconds outside the course record.

Sean Tarry's filly came into the Oaks off a gutsy win in the SA Fillies Classic over 1800m, where she had made all. This time, she elected to track pacesetter Seville Orange into the straight and willingly responded when jockey Pierre Strydom let out the reins. It was race over as she powered away to score by the best part of two lengths, from Blossom, who came from near the back of the field.

As a winner of the final two legs of the Triple Tiara - she had made all in the Gr1 SA Fillies Classic - it is regrettable that she was forced to miss the first leg, the Fillies Guineas, due to health issues.

Crowned last season's champion juvenile filly following her victory in the Gr1 Thekwini Stakes, she is from the first crop of Pomodoro, as is Cirillo, who made Soqrat work for his victory in the preceding Gr. HF Oppenheimer Horse Chestnut Stakes!

Owner Chris van Niekerk no doubt blushes every time his champion filly adds to her growing resume. No stranger to spending big at the sales, he 'stole' the daughter of his July winner Pomodoro for just R20,000 from Highlands stud manager Mike Sharkey as a yearling. Last season's champion juvenile filly, her cut of the Oaks purse boosted her earnings to over R1.9 million, in addition to which she already rates a live candidate for a second Equus award!

(For pedigree details, see SA Fillies Classic above)

MAN O'WAR SPRINT (GRADE 3) - R250,000 - 1100m - Turffontein

1st R156,250, 2nd R50,000, 3rd R25,000 - March 30

1. VAN HALEN

3yo b.g. by Oratorio - Rock Concert (Lecture)

2nd dam: Drummer Girl (Al Mufti)

3rd dam: Swinging Girl (Mullineaux)

Owners: F N Englezakis, R P Macnab, A Pawson and F van Wyk

Bred by Limpo Retail

Trainer: T Spies

Jockey: D Schwarz

2. Russian Prince

3yo b.g. by Potala Palace - Minski (Jallad)

Owner: P Somasundram

Bred by Highlands Farms Stud (Pty) Ltd

3. Chimichuri Run

3yo ch.c. by Trippi - Spiced Gold (Kahal)

O: C J H van Niekerk

Bred by Drakenstein Stud

Then came: Basilius, Mighty High, Carbon Atom, All At Once, Topmast, Old Man Tyme, Sugoi, Benji
Non-runners: Summer Afternoon, Coyote Girl
Won by: neck - 0.50 - neck
Time: 63,27

Returning to action off a two-month rest, VAN HALEN snapped a four-race losing streak with a convincing victory to give jockey Dennis Schwarz a quickfire double.
Patiently ridden as Russian Prince and Basilius took them along up front, the Tobie Spies-trained three-year-old made his forward move a furlong out and surged past the leaders close home to score going away.

The effort was a welcome return to the juvenile form which saw him claim the Gr1 Gold Medallion at Scottsville. A winner of his first three-year-old outing, he made the trek to Cape Town for the Summer season, but returned to his home base with his tail between his legs, following three dismal efforts, hence his generous starting price of 20-1!

Van Halen cost co-owner Fito Englezakis R100,000 at the Cape Premier Yearling Sale, a sum which now looks small change, considering this Gr3 victory pushed his earnings past R820,000.

From the second local crop of Oratorio, Van Halen hails from a fine family nurtured by the Parkers at their Ascot Stud. He is out of Gr1 Allan Robertson third Rock Concert, whose own sister Rock Opera landed the Allan Robertson for Tobie's son Corné in flawless juvenile campaign which earned her championship honours. Exported to Dubai, she ran third in the UAE 1000 Guineas and became the dam of Dubai Gr2 winner Heavy Metal, who, just hours after Van Halen's success, finished a game second in the Gr2 Godolphin Mile at the Dubai World Cup meeting.

Rock Concert is also an own sister to the Gr2 South African Nursery victor Hit Song and a three-parts-sister to Royal Drummer (Kilconnel), the dam of Sail From Seattle's Gr1 Cape Flying Championship hero Gulf Storm and Gr3 winner and Gr1 Gold Medallion runner-up Seattle Singer. Coincidentally, the latter was also trained by Corné Spies.

CARADOC GOLD CUP (GRADE 3) - R250,000 - 2850m - Turffontein
1st R156,250, 2nd R50,000, 3rd R25,000 - March 30

1. SUNSHINE SILK

4yo ch.f. by Silvano - Vanilla Silk (Al Mufti)
2nd dam: Vino Rosa (Foveros)
3rd dam: Luna Rosa (Selenio)
Owner: Mrs A Devachander
Bred by Gold Star Stud
Trainer: G V Woodruff
Jockey: M van Rensburg

2. Walter Smoothie

4yo ch.c. by Biarritz - Wild Strike (Strike Smartly)
Owner: V C Veeramootoo
Bred by Rous Bros (Henham Stud)

3. Tirzan

5yo b.g. by Seventh Rock - Tirza (Silvano)
Owners: D Malik, T J Dodgen, A C Preddy, J A Soma, J R van der Linde, L A Wainstein and Imagine Racing CC
Bred by Moutonshoek

Then came: Odd Rob, Woodland's Forest, Wonderous Climber, Horseplay, Let It Rain
Non-runners: Noble Secret, Ali Bon Dubai, Ilitshe (Aus)
Won by: 2 - 2.50 - 2
Time: 3-5,70

Champion stallion Silvano is no stranger to siring the winner of this marathon event, his 2011 SA Derby victor Seal having claimed this event in 2014. Four-year-old daughter SUNSHINE SILK became her sire's second Caradoc winner when she scored a convincing two-length victory in the energy-sapping race over 2850m.

Let It Rain immediately set out for the lead from the jump and tried to slip his field, opening up by least a dozen lengths. Not surprisingly, he had shot his bolt at the top of the straight and in midstretch, the race developed into a battle between Walter Smoothie and Geoff Woodruff's filly. She was always

going to be ultra-competitive with bottom weight and in the end, a 5kg weight advantage settled the matter in her favour, as she pulled away to score from her gallant rival. This coveted first stakes success not only took the filly's earnings to over R600,000, it also enhanced her paddock value. Now a five-time winner, she came into the race off a five-length romp in the 2400m non-black type Sun Chariot Stakes. Trained by Geoff Woodruff for Ashley Devachander, she is out of Al Mufti's placed daughter Vanilla Silk, who is also the dam of stakes-placed six-time winner Enchanted Silk (Kahal) and a juvenile colt by Silvano. Al Mufti has been a tremendous foil for Silvano, with notable horses produced on the cross including the champions Bold Silvano and Kings Gambit, as well as Gr1 winner Al Sahem.

PRETTY POLLY STAKES (GRADE 3) - R200,000 - 1100m - Turffontein
1st R125,000, 2nd R40,000, 3rd R20,000 - March 30

1. PALACE OF DREAMS

2yo b.f. by Potala Palace - Cheery Berry Bim (Spectrum)
2nd dam: Via Condotti (Raise A Man)
3rd dam: Pax Romana (Royal Prerogative)
Owner: R Francis
Bred by Highlands Stud
Trainer: R Francis
Jockey: R Munger

2. Gin Fizz

2yo b.f. by Soft Falling Rain - Espumanti (Dansili)
O: Wilgerbosdrift (Pty) Ltd
B: Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein

3. Emerald Tiara

2yo b.f. by Gimmethgreenlight - Jewel In Her Crown (Jallad)
Owner: C J H van Niekerk
Bred by Moutonshoek

Then came: Fly Away, What You Are, Singforafa, Me Time, Seemyvision
Won by: 0.50 - neck - 3.75
Time: 64,84

This proved a triumph for the smaller stables when the Romeo Francis-trained PALACE OF DREAMS snuck in under the radar to lose her maiden tag with an upset victory.

Mike de Kock's favourite Gin Fizz looked set for victory when taking command inside the final furlong, but was run out of it by the late-charging Francis runner, who came with a wet sail to claim victory by a half length.

To rub further salt in the wounds, Palace Of Dreams was purchased by Francis for the bargain basement price of R15,000 at last year's 2YO Sale from breeders Highlands Stud.

She is the first stakes winner for resident young stallion Potala Palace and is out of Cheery Berry Bim, a half-sister to Gr2 Thekwini Fillies second La Boutique (Jallad), whose own sister Roman Dream produced Bauhinia winner Onehundredacrewood (Malhub) and multiple stakes-placed Emperor Augustus (Kahal). Grandam Via Condotti is a half-sister to the Graded stakes winners Kiss Of Peace (Caesour), At The Savoy (Dancing Champ) and Magnolia King (Anono). This is of course the noted female line of Saturna, who produced champions sprinters Harry Hotspur and Rotterdam.

PROTEA STAKES (GRADE 3) - R200,000 - 1100m - Turffontein
1st R125,000, 2nd R40,000, 3rd R20,000 - March 30

1. TWILIGHT MOON

2yo b.c. by Wylie Hall - Vanilla Twilight (Qui Danzig)
2nd dam: Letsador (Elliodor)
3rd dam: Let's Hope So (African Hope)
Owners: R S Wentzel and Mrs R E Waterman-Wentzel
Bred by Daytona Stud (Pty) Ltd
Trainer: P F Matchett
Jockey: D Schwartz

2. **Frosted Gold (NZ)**

2yo gr.c. by All Too Hard - Mary d'Or (Verglas)

Owner: D D MacLean

Bred by JML Bloodstock Ltd

3. **Green Laser**

2yo b.c. by Gimmethegreenlight - Dance Domain (Parade Leader)

Owners: M Lieveaux and J R van der Linden

Bred by Varsfontein Stud

Then came: Ring Of Fire, Waimea, Cavivar, Arapaho, Anatolio, Look To The Sky

Won by: 1.25 - 3.75 - head

Time: 64,18

The race was billed a rematch between Frosted Gold and TWILIGHT MOON after they shared the spoils in the Listed Storm Bird Stakes, however, this time, despite being a kilogram worse off, Twilight Moon outgunned his rival by just over a length.

Frosted Gold, who started favourite, took the lead a long way from home, but his early exertions caught up with him at the death when challenged by Paul Matchett's charge who came from off the pace and surged past his rival to win going away.

The colt is fast proving to be a dream horse for his owners the Wentzels. Plucked from the KZN Sales for a paltry R20,000, he has already returned that tenfold, this first Graded success pushing his stakes earnings past the R200,000 mark.

Twilight Moon is a first-crop stakes winner for freshman sire Wylie Hall. A classic winner of the Gr1 SA Derby he gutted out a shorthead defeat over Legislate in the 2014 Vodacom Durban July but lost the race in the boardroom. The son of Redoute's Choice stands at Vaughan Koster's Cheveley Stud.

Bred by Daytona Stud, Twilight Moon is the first winner out of Vanilla Twilight (Qui Danzig), whose own sister Six Blue Notes took third in both the Gr1 Golden Slipper and Gr1 Thekwini Stakes.

COLORADO KING STAKES (GRADE 2) - R400,000 - 2000m - Turffontein

1st R250,000, 2nd R80,000, 3rd R40,000 - April 6

1. **DIVINE ODYSSEY**

4yo b.g. by Oratorio - Divine Right (Dynasty)

2nd dam: Raise The Roof (National Assembly)

3rd dam: On The Roof (Thatching)

Owners: Messrs J F and L M F Wernars, B R Binnie, C Gordon, Estate Late M C Gerber and

Janse van Vuuren Racing (Pty) Ltd

Bred by L M F Wernars

Trainer: J J van Vuuren

Jockey: C Habib

2. **The Dazzler**

4yo b.g. by Mogok - Glamorous Guest (Northern Guest)

Owners: L M Nestadt, M A Currie, M F de Kock and J R van der Linden

Bred by Scott Bros

3. **Dawn Assault**

5yo b.h. by Call To Combat - Cayman Ridge (Al Mufti)

Owner: S J Gray

Bred by Graystone Stud

Then came: Cash Time, Liege, Secret Potion, Sylvan On Fire, Social Order, Fort Ember, True Words

Won by: 3 - 1.50 - neck

Time: 2-06,74

In-form DIVINE ODYSSEY continued his ascent up the stakes ladder with a bloodless victory in the Gr2 Colorado King Stakes, his first at Graded stakes level.

Fresh off his two-length win in the March 16 Listed Drum Star Handicap, the four-year-old was always well-positioned and gathered a head of steam in the straight to surge into the lead 300m out. He quickly put daylight between himself and the chasing pack and clinched the 2000m event by an impressive three-lengths. Favourite The Dazzler, who had chased him home in the Drum Star, again had to settle for the runner-up spot.

Bred by co-owner Laurence Wernars, Divine Odyssey is by Oratorio out of Dynasty mare Divine Right, whilst grandam Raise The Roof is a daughter of former Broodmare of the Year On The Roof. From the immediate family of Blushing Groom, the Thatching mare proved a veritable goldmine at stud as the dam of six stakes performers from seven foals, amongst which the Gr1 SA Derby/Classic and Daily News 2000 hero Badger's Drift, multiple Gr1-placed Gr2 winners Secret Hoard and Dancing In The Rain and the Gr2-placed stakes winners On The Tiles and Arcade.

SYCAMORE SPRINT (GRADE 3) - R250,000 - 1160m - Turffontein
1st R156,250, 2nd R50,000, 3rd R25,000 - April 6

1. SAN FERMIN (AUS)

4yo b.f. by Charge Forward - Choice Blend (Redoute's Choice)
2nd dam: Tycoon Joy (Last Tycoon)
3rd dam: Christmas Spirit (Bletchingly)
Owners: Drakenstein Stud
Bred by Arrowfield Pastoral (Pty) Ltd
Trainer: M G and A Azzie
Jockey: M van Rensburg

2. Schippers

4yo ch.f. by Var - Fair Rosalind (Count Dubois)
Owner: G van Lear
Bred by owner

3. Dancing Queen

3yo b.f. by Mambo In Seattle - Jet Princess (Jet Master)
Owners: S Mileham, G H Long, H D Long and L C Long
Bred by Boland Stud

Then came: Desert Rhythm, Pool Party, See You Tyger, Carioca, Covered In Snow, Mary O'Reilly, Summer Afternoon, Lawdy Miss Clawdy, Pretty Penny, Frederico's Dream

Won by: neck - 0.75 - 0.50

Time: 68,12

SAN FERMIN was clearly in a galloping mood and despite some difficulty in securing a clear run, she flashed up late to register her first stakes success.

Making up the rear guard for most of the journey, the Drakenstein colour bearer managed to find a timely split a furlong out and came with a withering run to swoop past favourite Schippers to win going away.

The in-form four-year-old has matured into a fine sprinter and has now won three of her last four starts. It was also a deserved first black type victory for the filly, who was runner-up in last season's Gr3 Three Troikas Stakes, and ran third in a head-bobbing finish to the Listed Swallow Stakes.

Bred in Australia, San Fermin is the latest stakes winner sired by successful Australian stallion Charge Forward, a Gr1 winning son of Red Ransom and Sydney's Dream, who won the 1994 Allan Robertson Fillies Championship for Herman Brown Jnr.

Choice Blend, the dam of San Fermin, is a half-sister to triple Gr1 winner Bentley Biscuit (Peintre Celebre), from the family of Australian Gr1 winner and leading sire Thorn Park (Spinning World), as well as the Oppenheimer-campaigned Cask (Fort Wood), winner of the Gr2 Premier Trophy.

BYERLEY TURK (GRADE 3) - R250,000 - 1400m - Greyville
1st R156,250, 2nd R50,000, 3rd R25,000 - April 7

1. TRISTFUL

3yo b.g. by Trippi - Hear The Rain (Jet Master)
2nd dam: Niteinth Woods (Fort Wood)
3rd dam: Thousand Nights (Foveros)
Owner: Mrs M D J Liley
Bred by Gary Player Stud (Pty) Ltd
Trainer: A J Rivalland
Jockey: S Veale

2. Solid Gold

3yo ch.g. by Rock Of Gibraltar - Penny's Gold (Kingmambo)
Owners: B Kantor, C J H van Niekerk and Mrs P A Young
Bred by Klawervlei Stud

3. Triple Fate Line

3yo b.c. by Master Of My Fate- Tina's Trip (Trippi)
Owners: G C Kalil and G R Worth
Bred by Varsfontein Stud

Then came: Thanksgiving, Generous Lady, Hudoo Magic (Aus), Desolate Road, Stream Ahead, Rip It Up, Crown Towers (Aus), Carbon Atom
Won by: 1 - 1.75 - longhead
Time: 1-25,19

Local hope TRISFUL broke the visitors' eight-year stranglehold on this Gr3 event when he became the first KwaZulu-Natal-based winner since Dennis Drier's Phantom Fighter had his name inscribed on the trophy.

It was also a welcome and long overdue return to the stakes limelight for veteran owner Mary Liley, whose three-year-old wore down long-time leader Solid Gold to take command in the closing stages for a first stakes success.

This was a third win in just five starts for the Trippi gelding, a R250,000 graduate of the Cape Premier Yearling Sale.

Tristful is a product of the Gary Player Stud and is the first foal of Jet Master mare Hear The Rain, a winning half-sister to Gr2 Debutante victress Winterinthewoods (Western Winter). Grandam Niteinthewoods is one of eight winners out of the Jubilee Handicap victress Thousand Nights, whose exploits as a broodmare surpassed her excellent racetrack achievements.

To Badger Land she produced dual Gr1 Gold Cup hero Highland Night and Gr1-placed stakes winner Night Watch; a liaison with Western Winter resulted in the dual Gr1 winning sprinter and sire Warm White Night, whilst Al Mufti features as the sire of her Gr2 Derby winning son Prince Asad. Her Gr1-placed daughter Vogue (Model Man) is the dam of Gr2/3 winner Fort Vogue (Fort Wood), Gr3 victress Whatalady (Jet Master) and recent Gr2 Senor Santa runner-up Prince Kahal (Kahal).

UMZIMKHULU STAKES (GRADE 3) - R250,000 - 1400m - Greyville
1st R156,250, 2nd R50,000, 3rd R25,000 - April 7

1. TEMPLE GRAFIN

3yo ch.f. by Duke Of Marmalade - Inner Temple (Greys Inn)
2nd dam: Chica (Fort Wood)
3rd dam: West Wall (Plugged Nickle)
Owners: Chrigor Stud (Pty) Ltd
Bred by Mrs F Crowe
Trainer: G S Kotzen
Jockey: A Marcus

2. Santa Clara

3yo ch.f. by Duke Of Marmalade - Shina (Lomitas)
Owner: Drakenstein Stud
Bred by Maine Chance Farms (Pty) Ltd

3. Silvano's Pride

3yo ch.f. by Silvano - Mary's Pride (Jet Master)
Owner: A C Peter
Bred by owner

Then came: Parental Control, Anneka, Inverroche, Silent Crusade, Arianos Shadow, Strawberry Wine, Runaway Gal, Railtrip, Ella's World, Reactive Glaze
Won by: 0.50 - 0.75 - 1
Time: 1-24,87

Chrigor Stud's TEMPLE GRAFIN reserves her best form for the Greyville. Winless since she closed out her juvenile season with victory in the Gr2 Debutante Stakes at Greyville, Glen Kotzen's charge snapped a four-race losing streak in fine fashion here.

Under Anton Marcus, the chestnut unleashed a powerful rally up the stand side to join Santa Clara and pacesetter Silvano's Pride close home before asserting her authority by a half length, with Santa Clara completing a Gr3 exacta for blue chip stallion Duke Of Marmalade.

A R300,000 Cape Premier Yearling Sale graduate, Temple Grafin is the second foal of Inner Temple, whose half-brother Roman Wall (Count Dubois) won the Listed Easter Handicap. Grandam Chica is a winning full sister to the champion and SA Oaks victress Monyela, Gr2 Emerald Cup hero Iron Curtain and to the dams of Gr3 Cape Classic winner Eighth Wonder (Captain Al) and Port Elizabeth Gold Cup victor Shady World (Ideal World). The next dam West Wall, a half-sister to Horse of the Year Horse Chestnut, won the Gr3 Strelitzia Stakes.

HSH PRINCESS CHARLENE EMPRESS CLUB STAKES (GRADE 1) - R1,000,000 - 1600m - Turffontein

1st R625,000, 2nd R200,000, 3rd R100,000 - April 13

1. CAMPHORATUS

4yo b.f. by Byword - Wild Camphor (Horse Chestnut)

2nd dam: Apex (Mt Livermore)

3rd dam: Oshima (Mr Prospector)

Owners: L J Muir, S Manicom, G R Sadleir and Mr and Mrs R Pickering

Bred by Middlefield Stud

Trainer: R and S Hill

Jockey: C Habib

2. Running Brave

3yo b.f. by Brave Tin Soldier - Movingandgrooving (Jet Master)

Owners: F Bronkhorst and H L Neethling

Bred by Summerhill Stud (Pty) Ltd

3. Nafaayes (AUS)

3yo b.f. by Exceed And Excel - Decelerator (Dehere)

Owner: Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Bred by Kia Ora Stud

Then came: Oh Susanna (Aus), Celtic Sea, Fiorella, Fresnaye, Ghaalla, Flying Fable, Cashel Palace, Cascapedia (Ire), Al Danza, Redberry Lane

Won by: longhead - 1 - 1

Time: 1-38,49

KwaZulu-Natal visitor CAMPHORATUS caused a monumental upset when she inflicted a shock defeat on arguably one of the strongest Empress Club fields assembled in many a year, headed by reigning Horse of the Year, Oh Susanna.

Notwithstanding her fine second in last month's Listed Jacaranda Handicap, the white-blazed chestnut made her Gr1 stakes debut way under the radar. Racing in mid-field early on, she picked them off one by one in the straight and with a fine turn of foot, joined three-year-old Running Brave, who looked to have sewn it up after shaking off the attentions of Oh Susanna close home. In a pulsating duel, Camphoratus kept finding that little extra and thrust her head in front on the line for a first top level success.

It was a master plan come together for the Summerveld-based father and son team of Robbie and Shannon Hill. Camphoratus has been based at Geoff Woodruff's Highveld stables for the past two months and fully acclimatised, she has rewarded them, jockey Gareth Wright and her well-performed sire Byword, with a maiden Gr1 win in what was a virtual mirror performance of her Gr3 Flamboyant Stakes victory on Boxing Day.

Racing's newest millionaire is campaigned by a partnership which includes her breeder Rob Pickering, who initially stood Byword, a Juddmonte-bred Gr1 winner. Sire also of second-crop stakes winner Rain Spider, the son of Peintre Celebre now stands at Mary Slack's Wilgerbosdrift.

It is only fitting that Byword's first Gr1 winner was produced from a former Mauritzfontein-bred mare, Horse Chestnut's unraced daughter Wild Camphor.

Bred in the US by the late Harry and Bridget Oppenheimer, the well-related mare is one of just two foals out of unraced Apex, whilst the next dam Oshima is an own sister to Gr2 All Along Stakes victress, Gr1 Poule d'Essai des Pouliches second and Gr1 Prix Marcel Boussac third Sha Ta, who bred Gr2 Prix Dollar winner State Shinto (Pleasant Colony).

This is the female line of Del Mar Oaks victress Savannah Dancer (Northern Dancer), ancestress also of champion European sprinter One Cool Cat and Gr1 Breeders Cup Mile winner Aragorn.

WINTER GUINEAS (GRADE 3) - R250,000 - 1600m - Kenilworth
1st R156,250, 2nd R50,000, R25,000 - April 27

1. ONE WORLD

3yo b.c. by Captain Al - Aquilonia (Giant's Causeway)
2nd dam: Leonila (Caerleon)
3rd dam: Dinalina (Top Ville)
Owners: E A Braun, K P Truter, A J van Huyssteen and Mrs J Truter
Bred by Klawervlei Stud
Trainer: V H Marshall
Jockey: A Marcus

2. Vardy

3yo b.g. by Var - Cupid (Jet Master)
Owners: B Kantor, G L Blank, J Sarkis and D Yutar
Bred by Tawny Syndicate

3. Majestic Mozart

3yo b.g. by Dynasty - Sound The Flute (Theatrical)
Owners: M F Bass, F C Blomkamp, M A Govender, G P Lemke, B Ressel, W Smith et al
Bred by Highlands Farms Stud (Pty) Ltd

Then came: Herodotus, Clouded Hill, Russet Air, Fabian

Won by: head - 2.75 - 0.75

Time: 1-39,77

That ONE WORLD is imbued with an abundance of class and a large dose of courage was never more evident than in this, the first leg of the Winter Series.

Returning off an absence of 13 weeks, the Gr2 winning son of Captain Al quickly took up his customary place at the head of affairs and looked set for an easy victory until joined a furlong out by blinkered Vardy. Under pressure, One World was made to work for victory but not for the first time, he showed remarkable fighting spirit and in a no-holds-barred duel to the line, where the pair brushed on a number of occasions, he dug down deep to prevail by a head. Vardy's trainer Adam Marcus, nephew of winning jockey Anton Marcus, lodged an objection for interference, which was overruled. A natural frontrunner, Vaughan Marshall's charge won five on the trot before a shock first defeat in the Gr1 Cape Guineas, but regained the winning thread with a frontrunning success in the R5-million CTS 1600 in late January.

A half-brother to Russian 1000 Guineas victress Glorious Lass (Galileo) and to the stakes-placed filly Count To Ten (Count Dubois), One World is out of placed Aquilonia, while grandam Leonila was runner-up in the Gr2 Prix de Malleret and is an own sister to French Oaks queen Caerlina, who in turn bred Irish and French 1000 Guineas third, La Nuit Rose (Rainbow Quest).

THE INDEPENDENT ON SATURDAY DRILL HALL STAKES (GRADE 2) - R500,000 - 1400m - Greyville

1st R312,500, 2nd R100,000, 3rd R50,000 - May 3

1. UNDERCOVER AGENT

4yo b.c. by Captain Al - Secret Risk (London News)
2nd dam: Lustra Belle (Lustra)
3rd dam: Cabistan (Lords)
Owners: G Bortz and A J van Huyssteen
Bred by Moutonshoek
Trainer: B Crawford
Jockey: C Orffer

2. Rainbow Bridge

4yo b.g. by Ideal World - Halfway To Heaven (Jet Master)
Owners: Mr and Mrs M L P Rattray
Bred by Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein

3. Cirillo

3yo b.c. by Pomodoro - Miss Wordsworth (Lake Coniston)

Owner: C J H van Niekerk

Bred by Riverton Stud

Then came: Lady In Black, Will Pays, Zouaves, Infamous Fox (Aus), Sniper Shot, Sand And Sea, Matador Man

Won by: head - longhead - 1.75

Time: 1-23,39

A star-studded line-up faced the starter for this 1400m race and in a fitting start to the rich KwaZulu-Natal winter season, the Greyville crowd were treated to a rousing finish, with UNDERCOVER AGENT reversing his longhead defeat of twelve months ago.

Returning to the racetrack where he had also earned his Gr1 spurs in last season's Gold Challenge, Brett Crawford's four-year-old immediately shot into the lead and looked to have the race sewn up a furlong from home. However, three-year-old Cirillo loomed large on his outside and briefly poked his head in front, while Met hero Rainbow Bridge, making his debut at the right-handed track, flew up on his inside. In a thrilling three-way finish, Undercover Agent just lasted long enough, as Rainbow Bridge was in front a stride past the post. Cirillo ran his heart out and finished a longhead back in third.

For the winner and runner-up it was a return to action after their Met clash, where Undercover Agent finished fourth, just over two lengths behind Rainbow Bridge. Yet another star miler sired by Klawervlei's late stalwart Captain Al, the colt has rewarded owners Greg Bortz and Braam van Huyssteen with earnings fast approaching R5 million, a far cry from the R325,000 he cost as a yearling.

Undercover Agent's dam Secret Risk won the Winter Oaks and will be sold at the Moutonshoek dispersal sale on May 23. She is currently in foal to Galileo's Gr2 winning son The United States, whose own sister Hermosa made all to claim the Gr1 English 1000 Guineas not even 24 hours after the Drill Hall Stakes.

KRA FILLIES GUINEAS (GRADE 2) - R500,000 - 1600m - Greyville

1st R312,500, 2nd R100,000, 3rd R50,000 - May 3

1. SANTA CLARA

3yo ch.f. by Duke Of Marmalade - Shina (Lomitas)

2nd dam: Spirit Of Eagles (Beau's Eagle)

3rd dam: Big Spirit (Big Spruce)

Owner: Drakenstein Stud

Bred by Maine Chance Farms (Pty) Ltd

Trainer: C Bass-Robinson

Jockey: B Fayd'Herbe

2. Front And Centre

3yo b.f. by Dynasty - Alignment (Alzao)

Owners: C and R Kieswetter and Ridgemont Highlands

Bred by Highlands Farms Stud (Pty) Ltd

3. Temple Grafyn

3yo ch.f. by Duke Of Marmalade - Inner Temple (Greys Inn)

Owners: Chrigor Stud (Pty) Ltd

Bred by Mrs F Crowe

Then came: Silvano's Pride, Running Brave, Nafaayes (Aus), Celtic Sea, Moon In June, Princess Irene, Petra, Waiting For Change, Railtrip, Arianos Shadow

Non-runners: Generous Lady, Mazari

Won by: 2.75 - 1.25 - 1.25

Time: 1-37,05

SANTA CLARA became the first local classic winner for Duke Of Marmalade when she registered an effortless victory in the Gr2 KRA Fillies Guineas under the Greyville lights.

Building on a fine second the Gr3 Umzimkhulu Stakes, the Drakenstein colour bearer clearly relished the extra furlong and after moving into the lead 300m out, she stretched clear for an effortless three-length win, her first at stakes level.

Drakenstein had to outlay an even million for the Maine Chance-bred filly at the 2017 Cape Premier Yearling Sale and rightly so. By an international sire success, she is out of Shina, an unraced own sister to Silvano. At the time of purchase, Dynasty half-brother Horizon (himself a R5.2 million yearling), had just won the Gr3 Politician Stakes and would go on to finish third in the Gr1 Daily News 2000. Coincidentally, it was a weekend to remember for Shina, as 48 hours after Santa Clara's classic success, that one's juvenile own sister Sanskrift picked up her first black type when third in the Listed Perfect Promise Sprint at Kenilworth.

KRA GUINEAS (GRADE 2) - R600,000 - 1600m - Greyville
1st R375,000, 2nd R120,000, 3rd R60,000 - May 3

1. TWIST OF FATE

3yo b.c. by Master Of My Fate - Crescent Lily (Counter Action)
2nd dam: Foxy Drums (Russian Fox)
3rd dam: Star Drums (Foveros)
Owner: River Palace Racing Syndicate
Bred by Favour Stud
Trainer: J Ramsden
Jockey: A Marcus

2. National Park

3yo b.g. by Gimmethgreenlight - Fancy Park (Camden Park)
Owners: B Ressel, F H McGrath, M C Wright and Missing U Syndicate
Bred by Missing U Syndicate

3. Bunker Hunt

3yo b.g. by Dynasty - Secret Obsession (Captain Al)
Owner: Mrs S Plattner
Bred by Varsfontein Stud

Then came: Soqrat (Aus), Thanksgiving, Chijmes, Alyaasaat (Aus), Charles, Approach Control, Tristful, Triple Fate Line, Solid Gold
Non-runner: Samurai Warrior
Won by: 0.75 - 1 - 0.75
Time: 1-35,91

Soqrat, who stamped himself as the new star miler following victories in the Gr1 Cape Guineas and Gr1 HF Oppenheimer Horse Chestnut Stakes, was all the rage here, however, Sheikh Hamdan's colt failed to overcome the widest draw and finished fourth behind winner TWIST OF FATE, who had chased him home in the Cape Guineas.

Gauteng Guineas hero National Park was still on the lead a furlong from home, but had no answer to the strong finish from Joey Ramsden's colt, who gradually asserted to win going away by the best part of a length.

It was a remarkable result, considering that the first three past the post all had connections to Varsfontein Stud, the winner and runner-up being by resident stallions Master Of My Fate and Gimmethgreenlight, whilst third-placed Bunker Hunt (Dynasty) is a Varsfontein-bred.

Twist Of Fate, whose tally of six wins also includes the Gr3 Cape Classic, Gr3 Politician Stakes and the Listed Somerset Stakes, is proving to be a money-spinner of note for his Mauritian owners, his current earnings standing at just over R2.2 million.

Bred by the Favour Stud, the colt is out of Breeders Guineas winner Crescent Lily and hails from the immediate family of Vodacom Durban July hero Heavy Metal and the Gr1 winners Planetary Music and Drum Star.

POINSETTIA STAKES (GRADE 3) - R250,000 - 1200m - Greyville
1st R156,250, 2nd R50,000, 3rd R25,000 - May 3

1. FREEDOM CHARTER

4yo b.f. by Elusive Fort - Betty Burke (Captain Al)
2nd dam: Bonny Dundee (Centenary)
3rd dam: Choctan (Dancing Champ)
Owners: M F Bass, P G de Beyer, B Lemos and W Smith

Bred by P G de Beyer
Trainer: C Bass-Robinson
Jockey: B Fayd'Herbe

2. Elusive Heart

4yo b.f. by Elusive Fort - Redeem My Heart (Indigo Magic)
Owners: Chrigor Stud (Pty) Ltd and P G de Beyer
Bred by Narrow Creek Stud

3. Sugar Girl

4yo b.f. by Trippi - Ilha Grande (Tiger Ridge)
Owner: Khaya Stables (Pty) Ltd
Bred by Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein

Then came: Rose In Bloom, Anime, Juniper Spring, Township Melody, Neptune's Rain, Champenois, Inverroche, Vision To Kill, Isingamoya

Won by: 1 - neck - 0.75

Time: 71,31

Fort Wood's champion son Elusive Fort once again underlined his prowess as a sire of top fillies when he registered a one-two in the Gr3 Poinsettia Stakes, with victory going to FREEDOM CHARTER. Given a copybook ride by Bernard Fayd'Herbe, the four-year-old sneaked through on the rail and proceeded to make light work of the 1200m sprint, coming home full of running to score by a facile length from paternal half-sister Elusive Heart.

This was a deserved second stakes success for the Candice Bass-Robinson-trained chestnut, who had gone winless since landing the Gr2 Champagne Stakes at the end of last season, albeit that she has since added more Gr2 black type with third places in both the Southern Cross and Sceptre Stakes, in addition to finishing second, beaten a neck, in the Listed Laisserfaire Stakes.

The result was a memorable one for Peter de Beyer, as he not only bred and co-owns the winner, he is also a partner in the runner-up. Freedom Charter is an own sister to Listed Sophomore Sprint winner Ernie, who took a leaf out of his sibling's book by scoring in Mauritius on Sunday, his fourth on the island. They are out of the winning Captain Al mare Betty Burke, who has a yearling by Master Of My Fate. The female line is that of champion and Durban July winner Gondolier and the Gr1 winning sprinter San Carlos.

STRELITZIA STAKES (GRADE 3) - R200,000 - 1100m - Greyville
1st R125,000, 2nd R40,000, 3rd R20,000 - May 3

1. SINGFORAFA

2yo b.f. by Potala Palace - First Whistle (Whistling Wind)
2nd dam: First Honeymoon (Pole Position)
3rd dam: Honeymoon Special (Royal Prerogative)
Owner: X Spies
Bred by N J Swart
Trainer: T Spies
Jockey: C Zackey

2. Me Time

2yo b.f. by Gimmethegreenlight - What About Me (Tiger Ridge)
Owners: L J Bouwer, D G de Villiers, G D Diedericks and T Spies
Bred by Varsfontein Stud

3. Vandah's Spirit

2yo b.f. by Trippi - Mana Mou (Captain Al)
Owner: N M Shirliff
Bred by Klawervlei Stud

Then came: Naoshima, Miss Honey, Yessircanboogie, Elnora, Her Royal Majesty

Won by: 1.25 - 1.25 - 0.50

Time: 65,92

Gauteng visitor SINGFORAFA was clearly in a galloping mood and promptly made all the running to open her stakes account whilst making her debut at the Greyville track.

The Tobie Spies-trained filly quickly settled on the lead and although stable companion Me Time made every attempt to close the gap in the straight, she kept rolling to score by a handsome margin.

She joins Gr3 Pretty Polly victress Palace Of Dreams as the second stakes winner sired by Singspiel's Gr1 winning son Potala Palace, who stands at birthplace Highlands. Out of three-time winner First Whistle, Singforafa has clearly risen above her humble pedigree, considering one must go back to her fourth dam, the stakes-placed Woomera (Comet), to find a stakes winner, this being Coconut Queen, an own sister to Singforafa's third dam Honeymoon Special. A Listed stakes winner at two, she also ran third in the Strelitzia Stakes.

GODOLPHIN BARB STAKES (GRADE 3) - R200,000 - 1100m - Greyville
1st R125,000, 2nd R40,000, 3rd R20,000 - May 3

1. AFRICAN WARRIOR

2yo b.g. by Vercingetorix - Allez Afrique (Jet Master)

2nd dam: Al Damirji (Al Mufti)

3rd dam: Trust My Luck (Mexico II)

Owners: D K Racing Syndicate

Bred by Boland Stud

Trainer: D Kannemeyer

Jockey: K de Melo

2. Master Of Illusion

2yo b.g. by Master Of My Fate - Victorian Secret (Captain Al)

Owner: N Jonsson

Bred by Varsfontein Stud

3. High Voltage

2yo b.c. by Querari - Heliane (Captain Al)

Owner: D D MacLean

Bred by Maine Chance Farms (Pty) Ltd

Then came: Wave, Padre Pio, El'Zara

Non-runner: Lamberti

Won by: shorthead - 0.50 - 0.50

Time: 66,58

Leading Freshman sire Vercingetorix's rich vein of form continues unabated. Barely a week after Viking Moon's victory in the Listed East Cape Nursery, another first-crop son, AFRICAN WARRIOR, became his young sire's first Graded stakes winner with a hard-fought score in the Gr3 Godolphin Barb Stakes.

Whereas the winner made his run up the inside rail, main rival Master Of Illusion threw out a determined challenge on the stand side of the track and in a humdinger finish, Dean Kannemeyer's charge held on for victory by the proverbial whisker.

It was a second success for the Boland Stud bred gelding, who was snared at the KwaZulu-Natal Yearling Sale for R100,000 and has already repaid that twofold.

A sibling to multiple winners by Var, African Warrior is out of the winning Jet Master mare Allez Afrique, a half-sister to Gr1 Cape Flying Championship hero O Caesour (Caesour). The extended family is that of champions Harry's Charm, Enchantress, Laverna and National Currency.

PREMIER'S CHAMPIONS CHALLENGE (GRADE 1) - R4,000,000 - 2000m - Turffontein
1st R2,400,000, 2nd R740,000, 3rd R380,000 - May 4

1. HAWWAAM

3yo b.c. by Silvano - Halfway To Heaven (Jet Master)

2nd dam: Pas De Basque (Rambo Dancer)

3rd dam: Our Elegant Girl (Our Casey's Boy)

Owner: Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Bred by Wilgerbosdrift & Mauritzfontein

Trainer: M F de Kock

Jockey: A Marcus

2. Cascapedia (IRE)

5yo b.m. by High Chaparral - Janoubi (Dansili)

Owner: Mauritzfontein (Pty) Ltd

Bred by Camas Park Stud

3. Divine Odyssey

4yo b.g. by Oratorio - Divine Right (Dynasty)

Owners: Messrs J F and L M F Wernars, B R Binnie, C Gordon, Estate Late M C Gerber and Janse van Vuuren Racing (Pty) Ltd

Bred by L M F Wernars

Then came: Legal Eagle, Dark Moon Rising, Unagi, Zillzaal, Dawn Assault, Noble Secret, Red Chesnut Road, Tilbury Fort, Odd Rob, Fort Ember

Won by: 4 - neck - 1

Time: 2-04,13

Three-year-old HAWWAAM looked every inch the superstar he has long been touted to be with a comprehensive victory, his second at the elite level and first in open company.

Sheikh Hamdan's colt was rumoured unbeatable following his stunning tour de force in the Gr1 SA Classic and he duly delivered. Partnered for the first time by ace jockey Anton Marcus, the colt raced in third throughout, delivered the knockout blow approaching the final furlong and hardly raised a sweat to put daylight between himself and stable companion Cascapedia.

Hawwaam's SA Derby misfortunes have been well documented: he was withdrawn just before the off after suffering a mishap in the parade ring. The colt has tasted defeat just once in six starts when runner-up in the Gr2 Gauteng Guineas. In addition to his Gr1 double, his tally of wins also include the Gr2 Dingaans and Gr3 Tony Ruffel Stakes.

Hawwaam completed a quickfire Graded stakes double on the day for his sire Silvano, after four-year-old daughter Sunshine Silk's earlier victory in the marathon Gr3 Gold Bowl.

A million Rand yearling purchase, Hawwaam is a half-brother to Gr1 Met hero Rainbow Bridge (Ideal World), who opened his winter campaign in tremendous fashion the previous night when beaten a fast-diminishing head in the Gr2 Drill Hall Stakes.

(For pedigree details, see SA Classic above)

COMPUTAFORM SPRINT (GRADE 1) - R1,000,000 - 1000m - Turffontein

1st R625,000, 2nd R200,000, 3rd R100,000 - May 4

1. PACIFIC TRADER

5yo b.g. by Sail From Seattle - Agbalat (Cape Cross)

2nd dam: Tarfshi (Mtoto)

3rd dam: Pass The Peace (Alzao)

Owners: M J Maritz and F van Wyk

Bred by Ascot Stud (Pty) Ltd

Trainer: B Crawford

Jockey: P Strydom

2. Princess Rebel

4yo b.f. by Rebel King - First Wave (Waldoboro)

Owners: Ms Y Bremner and Messrs F H McGrath and M C Wright

Bred by Favour Stud

3. Chimichuri Run

3yo ch.c. by Trippi - Spiced Gold (Kahal)

Owner: C J H van Niekerk

Bred by Drakenstein Stud

Then came: Quinlan, Palace Chapel, Search Party, Prince Of Kahal, Speedpoint, Down To Zero, Van Halen, Trip To Heaven, Rivarine, Basilius, Rebel's Champ, Clever Guy, Attenborough, Bull Valley

Non-runners: Pinnacle Peak, Russian Prince, Winter Storm

Won by: head - 1 - head

Time: 56,66

In his first foray at Turffontein, Cape visitor PACIFIC TRADER put up a scintillating effort to join the Gr1 ranks at the expense of the Port Elizabeth speedster Princess Rebel, who was also making her debut at the Johannesburg track.

Renowned for her devastating turn of foot, the filly set a scorching pace up front and when joined inside the final furlong by Pacific Trader, it was only in the dying strides that Brett Crawford's charge managed to get the upper hand over the gallant filly. This was a win full of credit, considering the

gelding had not seen a racetrack since late January when fourth in the Gr1 Cape Flying Championship.

The magical million Rand mark beckons for the newly minted Gr1 winner, whose earnings now stand at R967,312, a fine return on the R150,000 he cost his trainer as a yearling.

The Ascot bred is the fourth Gr1 winner sired by former resident stallion Sail From Seattle (Gone West), who sadly died in 2015. Pacific Trader's British-bred dam Agbalat is out of Gr2 Pretty Polly Stakes winner Tarfshi, who is also the grandam of Gr3 John of Gaunt Stakes winner Absolutely So (Acclamation). Out of Irish champion and French 2000 Guineas second Pass The Peace, Tarfshi is a half-sister to the champion juvenile Embassy (Cadeaux Genereux) who emulated her dam by winning the Gr1 Cheveley Park Stakes. She features as the grandam of Gr1 Prix Maurice de Gheest winner and former Klawervlei stallion King's Apostle (King's Best).

Ascot Stud sold Pacific Trader's yearling half-brother by Soft Falling Rain for R200,000 at the 2019 National Sale.

SA NURSERY (GRADE 2) - R750,000 - 1160m - Turffontein

1st R468,750, 2nd R150,000, 3rd R75,000 - May 4

1. FROSTED GOLD (NZ)

2yo gr.c. by All Too Hard - Mary d'Or (Verglas)

2nd dam: Miss Bio (River Mist)

3rd dam: River Sans Retour (Vacarme)

Owner: D D MacLean

Bred by JML Bloodstock Ltd

Trainer: M F de Kock

Jockey: A Marcus

2. Twilight Moon

2yo b.c. by Wylie Hall - Vanilla Twilight (Qui Danzig)

Owners: R S Wentzel and Mrs R E Waterman-Wentzel

Bred by Daytona Stud (Pty) Ltd

3. Battleoftrafalgar

2yo b.c. by Captain Al - Gibraltar Blue (Rock Of Gibraltar)

Owners: Mesdames J Magnier and D Magnier and Messrs M F de Kock and D D MacLean

Bred by Klawervlei Stud

Then came: Got The Greenlight, Invidia, Rock The Globe, Putontheredlight, Guantanamo Bay, De La Cruz, Sarah, Succession, Hertog, Lyntys Legacy

Non-runner: Look To The Sky

Won by: 1.50 - neck - 0.75

Time: 67,26

Juvenile colts FROSTED GOLD and Twilight Moon met for the third time here, having shared the honours in the Listed Storm Bird Stakes and the latter claiming victory in the Gr.3 Protea Stakes. This time, it was retribution for Mike de Kock's New Zealand-bred, who proved superior on the day.

Partnered for the first time by Anton Marcus, the grey was always pushing the pace set by stable companion Battleoftrafalgar. Quickening up the centre, he took command inside the final furlong and got the upper hand close home before striding clear to win with authority. Wylie Hall rallied for second to deny first-timer Battleoftrafalgar, who ran an absolute cracker.

Owned by Dave MacLean, New Zealand-bred Frosted Gold was purchased by Form Bloodstock at the Melbourne yearling sale. He is by Australian Gr.1 winner All Too Hard out of French-bred Mary d'Or, dam also of Sunshine Mighty (Murtajil), a Listed winner in Macau and the stakes-placed filly Maryore (Onemorenomore). Twice stakes-placed in her native country, Mary d'Or is an own sister to Gr.1 Prix Jean Prat hero and French 2000 Guineas second Stormy River. Other winning siblings include Gr.1 Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud winner Silverwave (Silver Frost) and Gr.3-placed Line Drummer (Galileo).

SA FILLIES NURSERY (GRADE 2) - R400,000 - 1160m - Turffontein

1st R250,000, 2nd R80,000, 3rd R40,000 - May 4

1. BASADI FAITH

2yo b.f. by Master Of My Fate - Coral Colour (Captain Al)
2nd dam: Kaleido (National Assembly)
3rd dam: Rainbow Cake (Mr Eats)
Owners: J Abreu and Miss J van der Merwe
Bred by Favour Stud
Trainer: P F Matchett
Jockey: D L Habib

2. Cavivar

2yo ch.f. by Var - Control Freak (Tambourlaine)
Owners: Mr A R and Mrs A B L Beck
Bred by Lammerskraal Stud

3. True To Life

2yo b.f. by Duke Of Marmalade - Mina Salaam (Megalia d'Oro)
Owner: R L Bruss
Bred by Northfields Stud (Pty) Ltd

Then came: Gin Fizz, What You Are, Rio's Winter, Seemyvision, Upcloseandpersonal, Emerald Tiara, Fly Away

Non-runner: Victoria Paige

Won by: neck - 3.75 - neck

Time: 66,98

The Gr1 Allan Robertson Championship is firmly on the radar for BASADI FAITH following her gun to tape victory, her first at Graded stakes level.

Quick out of the gate, she was allowed to set her own fractions and although hotly challenged by Cavivar close home, pulled out that little extra to score by a neck, the pair finishing well clear of the hitherto undefeated True To Life.

Paul Matchett's star filly has passed every test to date and remains undefeated, her four wins also including a runaway victory in the Listed Ruffian Stakes.

Basadi Faith also provided her young sire Master Of My Fate with a second Graded success in less than 24 hours, her win coming hot on the heels of Twist Of Fate's Gr2 KRA Guineas victory at Greyville.

Like the Guineas hero, she was bred by Favour Stud and is out of the juvenile winner Coral Colour, whilst grandam Kaleido is a winning full sister to champion sprinter National Colour, the 2005 joint Horse of the Year and dam of the Gr1 winners siblings Rafeef and Mustaqeem, both by Redoute's Choice.

GERALD ROSENBERG STAKES (GRADE 2) - R500,000 - 2000m - Turffontein

1st R312,500, 2nd R100,000, 3rd R50,000 - May 4

1 RETURN FLIGHT

3yo b.f. by Pomodoro - Heading Home (Special Preview)
2nd dam: Seeking Shelter (Hard Up)
3rd dam: Windy Ridge (Golden Thatch)
Owner: C J H van Niekerk
Bred by M Sharkey
Trainer: S G Tarry
Jockey: A Marcus

2. Insignis

4yo ch.f. by Go Deputy - Alula (Western Winter)
Owner: Lammerskraal Stud
Bred by owners

3. Secret Potion

4yo b.f. by Elusive Fort - Lemon Drop Girl (Parade Leader)
Owner: S M Jerrier
Bred by Dr I R Heyns

Then came: Pretty Border, Fresnaye, Ghaalla, Jet Start, Sylvan On Fire, My Dream Chaser, Cold Cash

Won by: 1.25 - 1.50 - longhead

Time: 2-06,33

The winning streak of RETURN FLIGHT continues unabated. Chris van Niekerk's champion completed a Graded hatrick by adding the Gr2 Gerald Rosenberg Stakes to her classic victories in the Gr1 SA Fillies Classic and Gr2 SA Oaks.

Sean Tarry's charge led virtually throughout and off a soft lead, she never let up to cross the line just over a length ahead of Jacaranda Handicap victress Insignis.

"She's all heart," remarked winning rider Anton Marcus, "If you have the right animal, it's so easy."

The first-crop daughter of Pomodoro, a Gr1 winner at two as well, was bred by Highlands stud manager Mike Sharkey and purchased for a trifling R20,000, which pales into insignificance considering her earnings now stand at just over R2.2 million.

Tarry confirmed Return Flight's main mission is Greyville's Gr1 Woolavington 2000.

(For pedigree details, see SA Oaks above)

CAMELLIA STAKES (GRADE 2) - R400,000 - 1160m - Turffontein

1st R250,000, 2nd R80,000, 3rd R40,000 - May 4

1. SCHIPPERS

4yo ch.f. by Var - Fair Rosalind (Count Dubois)

2nd dam: For Rosalind (Thunder Gulch)

3rd dam: Alyette (Alydeed)

Owner: G van Lear

Bred by owner

Trainer: G V Woodruff

Jockey: G Lerena

2. Mighty High

3yo b.f. by Pathfork - Bold Nymph (Shamardal)

Owners: A J van Huyssteen and J F and L M F Wernars

Bred by Maine Chance Farms (Pty) Ltd

3. Green Plains

4yo b.f. by Gimmethegreenlight - Savannah Leigh (Jet Master)

Owner: C J H van Niekerk

Bred by Gary Player Stud (Pty) Ltd

Then came: Pretty Penny, San Fermin (Aus), Comaneci, La Bella Mia, Frederico's Dream, Che Bella, All At Once, Dancing Queen, Exquisite Touch, Covered In Snow, Desert Rhythm

Won by: 2.50 - neck - 1.50

Time: 66,72

Fleet-footed Var filly SCHIPPERS put her best foot forward to register a fluent victory in the Gr2 Camellia Stakes. Always in the vanguard, she turned it on late and put an exclamation mark on the race by finishing well clear of runner-up and favourite Mighty High, who, admittedly, did not enjoy the best of passages. Last year's winner and top weight Green Plains was a neck back in third.

This was a sixth career success for Geoff van Lear's homebred and second at Graded level, following her Gr3 Magnolia Handicap win in December. She entered this Gr2 sprint off a neck defeat in last month's Gr3 Sycamore Sprint behind San Fermin, who this time, finished just out of the placings.

Van Lear also campaigned Schippers' dam Fair Rosalind, and she too, won the Magnolia and was runner-up in the Sycamore. Her dam, the American-bred For Rosalind, scored five times in the Beck colours and also finished second in the Listed Ladies Mile. The next dam Alyette is an unraced half-sister to Canadian champion juvenile Talkin Man (With Approval), who crossed the border to capture both the Gotham and Wood Memorial Stakes.

GOLD BOWL (GRADE 3) - R500,000 - 3200m - Turffontein

1st R312,500, 2nd R100,000, 3rd R50,000 - May 4

1. SUNSHINE SILK

4yo ch.f. by Silvano - Vanilla Silk (Al Mufti)

2nd dam: Vino Rosa (Foveros)

3rd dam: Luna Rosa (Selenio)

Owner: Mrs A Devachander

Bred by Gold Star Stud
Trainer: G V Woodruff
Jockey: G Lerena

2. Dromedaris

5yo b.g. by Global One - Nautical (Fort Wood)
Owners: A J McNabb, E Miliotis and J R van der Linden
Bred by Bosworth Farm Stud

3. Tirzan

5yo b.g. by Seventh Rock - Tirza (Silvano)
Owners: D Malik, T J Dodgen, A C Preddy, J A Soma, J R van der Linde, L A Wainstein and
Imagine Racing CC
Bred by Moutonshoek

Then came: Bondiblu, Liege, Earth Sky, Storm Warning, Royal Honour, Walter Smoothie, Africa's
Gold, Top Shot, Seeking Gold, Whatabeauty, Forest Express

Won by: 0.50 - 2.50 - head

Time: 3-35,44

That Geoff Woodruff's SUNSHINE SILK has blossomed into a stayer of note cannot be disputed. Fresh off a convincing victory in last month's Gr3 Caradoc Gold Cup, the four-year-old completed the double when landing Turffontein's marathon Gold Bowl over two miles.

Ashley Devanchander's chestnut wore down leader Dromedaris close home to score going away and in the process completed a fine three-race streak which started with an almost five length romp in the non-black type Sun Chariot Stakes on March 9.

As far as earnings go, she is also close to joining the millionaire ranks, this sixth career score padding an already sizeable bankroll to R926,200, a fine return on the R475,000 she cost as a yearling.

Out of the non-winner Vanilla Silk, Sunshine Silk is one of eight stakes winners Silvano has sired out of Al Mufti mares.

(For pedigree details, see Caradoc Gold Cup above)