

# \*\*\* TAB TOP 7 MEETING!

BPot (Races 1-6); PA (Races 2-8); P6 (Races 3-8); JPot 1 (Races 4-7); JPot 2 (Races 5-8)



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### VAAL CLASSIC (SA) - 24 JULY 2025

**RACECOURSE:** Turf. 2800m oval track. Races up to 1000m straight course; beyond 1000m clockwise round turn with 1000m run-in. **TOP JOCKEYS AT TRACK:** G Lerena 111-38 (34.23%)-44, P Strydom 46-11 (23.91%)-21, P Mxoli 95-10 (10.53%)-33, C Habib 64-9 (14.06%)-22 **TOP TRAINERS AT TRACK:** P F Matchett 108-13 (12.04%)-32, A P Peter 80-13 (16.25%)-32, F Bronkhorst 111-11 (9.91%)-34, M N Houdalakis 45-10 (22.22%)-14 **DRAW:** High-number draws favoured over 1000m; low-number draws best 1200m and 1450m. **APPRENTICES (ALLOWANCES):** G Dookhit (4.0), K J Lihaba, T Lukhele, T Mayhew (1.5), M Mbuto (4.0), S Mkhumbuzi, P Mlangeni, P Mongqawa, S Mosia, N Nastili (2.5), B Plaatjies (1.5), G Samo-Burthia (4.0).

**TAB BETS for this meeting = ALL RACES:** Win, Place, Swinger, Exacta, Trifecta, Quartet, Rolling Double (Races 1-2; 2-3; 3-4 etc) and Pick 3 (Races 1-3; 2-4; 3-5 etc) AND Bipot (RACES 1-6), Place Accumulator (RACES 2-8), Pick 6 (RACES 3-8), Jackpot (RACES 4-7; 5-8). All bets R1 unit; minimum bet in TABs R6 except SWINGER minimum bet R2. EACHWAY bet of R3 Win and R3 Place, as well as 3-horse EXACTA or TRIFECTA Box or 4-horse SWINGER Box for R6 total cost can be taken. Minimum bet online R1. **TAB PICK 6 Rule:** If first-timer wins, first horse to finish of those to have run before also qualifies (also BIPOT if first-timers finish first and second). **TAB PLACE Rules:** Less than 6 runners no Place betting; 6-7 runners payouts FIRST, SECOND; 8-15 runners FIRST, SECOND, THIRD; 16 or more runners FIRST, SECOND, THIRD, FOURTH. Fractional betting: Trifecta, Quartet, Bipot, PA, Pick 6, Jackpot. **ALL TO COME (WIN or PLACE)** any 2 or more races. **4Racing TAB** betting form: mark **VAAL** oval. **TAB Gold:** mark **GTG** oval. **TV:** ALL RACES RACING 240 (ch 240 DStv); ALL RACES GLOBAL TV (in TABs)

#### 1 11:50 - 4RACING WELCOMES YOU MAIDEN HAND-ICAP (For Maidens with 3 or more runs) *Turf Right-Hand Turn*

Stake: R80,000 1200m

1 TRAIL RUNNER3Bf	S G Tarry	2 G Lerena	60	3T11	5V12	4S12
2 FIRE STARTER2Bg	M/M de Kock	3 R Danielson	58	3T14	3B16	6T16
3 EMPRESS WU*3Bf	J S Roux	5 C Maujean	57.5	2B10	2V12	2J10
4 SHIMMERING2Bf	A G Laird	1 C Habib	54.5	5J12	4T11	5T11
5 TOUCH OF HEAVEN%3Bf	C Spies	8 K Matsunyane	54.5	8V12	6T11	6S12
6 SUPERIOR3Bf	C Mayhew	7 J Penny	52	9B12	8J10	6J10
7 DRAGONHEART<2Bg	J J van Vuuren	6 .....	52	5T10	7T11	8J10
8 SOLAMENTE4Bg	H E Adamson	4 L Nhlapo	52	0B12	0V10	9V12

Same Trainer: None.

**FORECAST BETTING:** 2-1 EMPRESS WU; 28-10 TRAIL RUNNER; 7-2 FIRE STARTER; 5-1 SHIMMERING; 12-1 AND UPWARDS OTHERS.

**DOWN IN CLASS:** TOUCH OF HEAVEN.

**TIPS:** 3 EMPRESS WU 1 TRAIL RUNNER 4 SHIMMERING 2 FIRE STARTER

**PREVIEW:** EMPRESS WU is overdue a maiden victory and she wouldn't be winning out of turn after 4 consecutive second-place finishes. TRAIL RUNNER has the form and experience to fight out the finish and recently gelded youngster FIRE STARTER won't need to improve much over this shorter trip to make his presence felt too. SHIMMERING and SUPERIOR could also have roles to play.

#### 2 12:22 - CHARITY MILE 1 NOVEMBER MAIDEN HAND-ICAP (For Maidens with 3 or more runs) *Turf Right-Hand Turn*

Stake: R80,000 1600m

1 JOHNNY DRAMA*3Chg	R Klaasen	1 K Matsunyane	60	7V12	4T14	2J14
2 CUZZIE*3Chg	B Webber	4 J Gates	58.5	4G18	8G20	0N20
3 GIFT OF ROYAL3Bg	B Webber	3 J R Syster	57	2V16	5V18	5J18
4 CODEWORD%3Bf	S G Tarry	5 *G Samo-Burthia	56	7J14	7T20	2V18
5 TRIP TO STATES5Chg	C I Jonker	6 G Lerena	56	2V13	4V12	2V14
6 WINCHESTER2Bg	P F Matchett	2 P Mxoli	54.5	6T14	7T11	5T14
7 EMERALD CITY2Bg	R R Magner	8 *K J Lihaba	52	0V12	7J14	8V18
8 EMER KING2Bc	A P Peter	7 K A Brewer	52	0V12	9T10	9T11

Same Trainer: (2 & 3).

**FORECAST BETTING:** 28-10 TRIP TO STATES; 7-2 JOHNNY DRAMA; 4-1 CODEWORD; 5-1 GIFT OF ROYAL; 6-1 WINCHESTER; 10-1 CUZZIE; 12-1 AND UPWARDS OTHERS.

**HEADGEAR CHANGE:** BLINKERS ON: JOHNNY DRAMA.

**TIPS:** 5 TRIP TO STATES 4 CODEWORD 6 WINCHESTER 1 JOHNNY DRAMA

**PREVIEW:** TRIP TO STATES was a well-beaten second last time but needs only to repeat that performance over this extended trip to play another leading role. CODEWORD finished a career-best second in this head-gear 3 weeks ago under the same rider and could fight for victory if confirming that improvement. JOHNNY DRAMA, GIFT OF ROYAL and youngster WINCHESTER appeal most of the remainder.

#### 3 12:54 - SUMMER CUP 29 NOVEMBER MR 74 HANDICAP (Open) *Turf Right-Hand Turn*

Stake: R85,000 1600m

1 UNSOLVED RIDDLE5Bg	G J Maroun	1 P Strydom	60	0J16	2V15	5J16
2 WAR REPORTER3Chg	S G Tarry	7 C Habib	59.5	5J16	4T20	2T18
3 LAUGHING WILLIAM*5Bg	C Dawson	2 G Lerena	59.5	7T16	0V14	2T14
4 TRIDENT KING*6Chg	D Nieuwenhuizen	4 *T Mayhew	59.5	4T16	5T20	9T16
5 PANNING GOLD*3Chg	A Ndzilana	5 C Maujean	59	9J16	7J16	3T20
6 GUY ALEXANDER\$6Bh	C J Lensley	10 *M Mbuto	58.5	4B18	8J16	0T24
7 COPPER EAGLE2Bc	R Klaasen	3 K Matsunyane	57			1T14
8 TOMMY SHELBY%2Bc	F P Habib	8 J Gates	56	9V12	4T14	1V14
9 VAVA VEGAS*5Chg	J Borman	9 *B Plaatjies	55.5	0V15	8J16	9T20
10 CARNELO6Bg	S M Naidoo	6 *K J Lihaba	55	6V18	8J16	0T20

Same Trainer: None.

**FORECAST BETTING:** 3-1 WAR REPORTER; 4-1 COPPER EAGLE; 5-1 TOMMY SHELBY; 6-1 LAUGHING WILLIAM; 7-1 PANNING GOLD; 8-1 UNSOLVED RIDDLE; 10-1 TRIDENT KING; 12-1 AND UPWARDS OTHERS.

**HEADGEAR CHANGE:** BLINKERS ON: PANNING GOLD. CHEEK PIECES OFF: CARNELO.

**TIPS:** 7 COPPER EAGLE 8 TOMMY SHELBY 2 WAR REPORTER 3 LAUGHING WILLIAM

**PREVIEW:** WAR REPORTER confirmed the improvement of his previous outing by finishing 2nd off this mark over 1800m recently. He should go well again over a course and distance he is unbeaten. Hard-knocker LAUGHING WILLIAM bounced back to form last time and could be hard to peg back if adopting similar tactics. Rating-droppers TRIDENT KING and PANNING GOLD aren't taken lightly off their current marks but are vulnerable to less-exposed younger rivals. Last-start scorer TOMMY SHELBY and debut winner COPPER EAGLE are promising 2yo colts with scope to improve over this extended trip that should suit.

#### 4 13:26 - #YOU CAN BET ON US! FM 92 HANDICAP (F & M) (For Fillies and Mares) *Turf Straight*

Stake: R110,000 1000m

1 COSMIC QUEEN3Bf	J J van Vuuren	3 G Lerena	60	7J10	1T10	4J10
2 BOSUM BUDDY3Bf	P F Matchett	2 P Mxoli	59.5	3T11	3G12	7N12
3 VIRGINIA BEACH4Bf	A P Peter	4 C Habib	57	6J10	9B10	0J10
4 STARS AND BRA'S3Bf	F Bronkhorst	5 J R Syster	56	9V15	8J10	5T11
5 KIA KAH3Chf	M/A Azzie	1 K A Brewer	55	5J10	4T10	3J10
6 RAINING RUBIES5Bm	H van der Westhuizen	6 J Penny	52	1V12	9T11	0V12
7 THE NAVY LARK*4Bf	J A Visser	7 *B Plaatjies	52	0V12	8T10	4V10
8 GLOBAL THUNDER\$4Bf	C J Lensley	8 *M Mbuto	52	2V12	6V10	1T11

Same Trainer: None.

**FORECAST BETTING:** 28-10 COSMIC QUEEN; 7-2 KIA KAH; 4-1 BOSUM BUDDY; 6-1 STARS AND BRA'S; 7-1 VIRGINIA BEACH; 8-1 THE NAVY LARK; 10-1 GLOBAL THUNDER; 12-1 AND UPWARDS OTHERS.

**DOWN IN CLASS:** COSMIC QUEEN, BOSUM BUDDY, VIRGINIA BEACH, STARS AND BRA'S, KIA KAH. **HEADGEAR CHANGE:** BLINKERS OFF: VIRGINIA BEACH.

**TIPS:** 1 COSMIC QUEEN 5 KIA KAH 2 BOSUM BUDDY 4 STARS AND BRA'S

**PREVIEW:** Consistent KIA KAH fared slightly better than COSMIC QUEEN in a stronger 1000m race last time but the latter was drawn wide around the turn that day and with any improvement should turn the tables. BOSUM BUDDY had legitimate excuses for a disappointing last start and shouldn't be underestimated on her Highveld return. STARS AND BRA'S isn't taken lightly either off her reduced mark. Recent scorer GLOBAL THUNDER (up in class) and speedy VIRGINIA BEACH come next.

**6 14:40 - THE ARF HANDICAPPERS CONFERENCE  
IN SA - 22 TO 25 JULY CLASSIFIED STAKES** (For  
horses with nett rating of 75 and below) *Turf Right-Hand Turn*  
Stake: R100,000 **2400m**

**7 15:15 - FOR HOSPITALITY BOOKINGS CALL 011 681 1796 MR 64 HANDICAP** (Open) *Turf Right-Hand Turn*  
Stake: R80,000 2000m

**8 15:50 - NEXT VAAL RACEMEETING THURSDAY 31 JULY**  
**FM 66 HANDICAP (F & M)** (For Fillies and Mares) *Turf Right-*  
*Hand Turn* Stake: R75,000 **1450m**

— END MEETING VAAL CLASSIC THURSDAY 24 JULY 2025 —