

MY MAIN RACE MET ANALYSIS

This year's Cape Town Met presents a fascinating puzzle with a mix of proven Grade 1 performers, progressive types, and some intriguing long shots. The pace scenario is likely to be set by LITIGATION, RED PALACE, ORIENTAL CHARM, and MONTIEN, who will be competing with each other from good draws to take the lead (except for MONTIEN who may use himself up coming from draw #15 to come over or race wide), thereby allowing their constant duelling for the lead to set the race up for horses who can race prominently or those who have a strong finishing kick such as SEE IT AGAIN, RASCALLION, and EIGHT ON EIGHTEEN. The race is open enough for a few of the long shots to potentially surprise. The key will be how the race unfolds tactically and which horses can best adapt to the pace and track position.

Race 8 Odds Line

- **10 EIGHT ON EIGHTEEN 4-1** One of the best three-year-olds in the country, this son of Lancaster Bomber is a strong favourite. He goes past 1600m for the first time but should be suited by the distance given his sire won at 2100m. In-form Richard Fourie in the saddle and three-year-olds have a good record in the Met. Huge runner. *A versatile runner who is primarily a closer, which could favor him given the strong early pace scenario for the race.*
- **12 SEE IT AGAIN 6-1** Both his career Grade 1 victories have come over 2000m, one of which was in the Cape Derby at Kenilworth. Gelding has not brought the improvement expected and was a disappointing fifth in the Betway Summer Cup before finishing last in the recent King's Plate. But you can make excuses for his last two runs and no doubting he will be a dangerous customer if he finds form on the day. *A strong closer who could benefit from the fast pace.*
- **3 ORIENTAL CHARM 7-1** The 2024 Durban July hero failed to produce his best form when unplaced in the King's Plate after winning the Grade 2 Green Point Stakes over the same distance. Will enjoy the extra 400m here and runs for an in-form stable. Needs to be included in all bets. *A versatile runner who can race prominently but needs to have the lead.*
- **16 RASCALLION 10-1** Showed tremendous courage in holding off Magic Verse to win the Premier Trophy by a short head. Has three wins, a second and a third to his credit in five runs since fitted with blinkers including a 0.40-length second to Double Superlative in last year's Met. Obvious contender. *An early stalking type with a good finishing kick who will have to use himself up coming across or race wide.*
- **1 RED PALACE 12-1** Runner-up in the Grade 1 Cartier Paddock Stakes, this filly comes into the race in prime condition. She won the Grade 2 Gold Bracelet over 2000m at Hollywoodbets Greyville last season, so there's no question about her staying the distance. *From pole position, she could upset but being a front-runner she could be vulnerable if the pace is too fast, given the other front-running types.*
- **15 MONTIEN 14-1** Defied odds of 75-1 when finishing second in the King's Plate and a repeat of that run over this longer distance would make him a contender here. But he

finished unplaced in last year's race and still has to prove he can see out 2000m against the best. Has won over 1800m in weaker company. *A front-runner/stalker who could be vulnerable if the pace is too fast.*

- **4 FUTURE SWING 16-1** Ran on well to finish a 1.20-length fourth in the Grade 2 Premier Trophy over 1800m and is 1kg better off with all those who finished ahead of him. He is not well weighted with the top runners in the field but is quite capable of running into the Quartet. *A stalker/closer who can make a move in the final stages.*
- **11 MAGIC VERSE 20-1** His last two runs have seen his merit rating skyrocket from 85 to 114, so there's no denying that he is on the up. He has won over 2000m and was beaten a nose by Rascallion in the Premier Trophy last time with Litigation a neck back in third and Future Swing (1kg better off) less than a length away fourth. In with a money chance. *A stalker/closer who can make a move in the final stages.*
- **7 ROYAL AUSSIE 23-1** Talented five-year-old gelding who appears to be just a touch below the best around. Ran well to finish fourth in the King's Plate after receiving a bump at the start, but he is suspect over this 400m longer trip. Does possess a strong finish and that does make him a contender for the Quartet if the pace is sedate. *A stalker/closer who can race prominently or settle in mid-pack.*
- **5 ATTICUS FINCH 28-1** After his spectacular victory in the Summer Cup over 2000m, he disappointed in the King's Plate when trying the left-hand Kenilworth course for the first time. There's no denying his ability, the only question is whether he will produce his best on the track this time. *A closer/deep closer who could benefit from a fast pace.*
- **6 LITIGATION 33-1** The six-year-old has produced two excellent performances at Kenilworth leading up to the Met and is definitely the dark horse to keep safe. From a good draw and with Muzi Yeni aboard, he looks one of the value bets on the card at 5-1 for a place. *A front-running early type horse who could be vulnerable if the pace is too fast, but has a good draw to get to the front easily.*
- **13 BARATHEON 50-1** This six-year-old gelding was beaten 2.85 lengths in the Premier Trophy last time out and at the weights has little chance of reversing the form with any of the six Met runners who finished in front of him. Will have to make significant improvement to feature. *A closer who will need a fast pace to be competitive.*
- **8 PACAYA 66-1** Has a second go at winning the Met after finishing way behind last year. The Snaith yard has always held this gelded son of Trippi in high regard, but unfortunately he has flattered to deceive more often than not. Fair effort behind Rascallion last time. *A closer who will need a fast pace to be competitive.*
- **14 MASTER REDOUTE 66-1** Brave entry as the six-year-old Querari-gelding has not run since winning the 3200m Gold Cup last July and makes his seasonal reappearance after a 181-day layoff. He does race well fresh and with three Grade 3 victories to his name, deserves his spot in the line-up. His recent record suggests marathon distances are now his game. *A closer who will need a fast pace to be competitive.*

- **2 AL MUTHANA 75-1** This seven-year-old gelding has run poorly of late and was beaten almost 15 lengths in the Grade 1 King's Plate. He does have class, but will need to make drastic improvement to feature over a distance in which he has failed to place in all three starts. *A closer who will need a fast pace to be competitive.*
- **17 ZAPATILLAS 75-1** Running thereabouts but his last win was in the KZN Guineas way back in 2022. So he's without a victory in 994 days and it's hard to visualise him getting back on the winning path in this contest. Finished 5.10 lengths behind Jet Dark in the Met two years ago and makes little appeal from the widest draw. *A closer who will need a fast pace to be competitive.*