

RACE BY RACE PREVIEWS: VAAL@2025.11.20

Vaal, 20.11.2025, Race 1, Gallops, 1400m, Turf, R120.000, 11:50GMT+2

Race Summary: AMANDLA NGAWETHU has the form and experience over this trip that will stand him in good stead, especially with his rider taking 4kg off the back. ARIZONA MAGIC and WORLD ORDER are capable of better than disappointing recent efforts suggest, and they could get involved if bouncing back to their earlier form. RED SUNRISE had legitimate excuses last time and remains open to improvement, so could get into the picture. Newcomers BIG SKY RANGER, KING ETHELRED and KNOWMORE are bred to be useful but won't need to be special to play leading roles either.

Selections:

#10 King Ethelred, #1 Amandla Ngawethu, #11 Knowmore, #6 World Order

Vaal, 20.11.2025, Race 2, Gallops, 1400m, Turf, R120.000, 12:20GMT+2

Race Summary: FORCE PUBLIQUE and SAY A WISH are well bred and open to improvement after respective absences, though the same could be said of LANCE ALOT who was gelded after a pleasing debut fifth. TOMMY ATKINS caught the eye when staying on well to finish third over this trip on debut. He would've benefitted from that experience and should improve to fight out the finish. Newcomers AGOGE, ELUSIVE GLOW, GIMMETHESPOTLIGHT and SMUGGLER are worth a market check.

Selections:

#12 Tommy Atkins, #6 Agoge, #8 Gimmethespotlight, #2 Force Publique

Vaal, 20.11.2025, Race 3, Gallops, 1400m, Turf, R105.000, 12:55GMT+2

Race Summary: AL GREENGA attracted market support when finishing fourth on debut and would've strengthened during a subsequent 175-day absence. She's open to any amount of improvement so can play a leading role. WINDS OF GRACE wouldn't be winning out of turn after several near misses and her recent race fitness could give her the edge. ONCEINABLUEMOON, AMAZE ME, PLEIADES STAR and EMERALD COUNTESS have shown enough to take home a cheque.

Selections:

#1 Winds Of Grace, #11 Al Greenga, #3 Onceinablue moon, #8 Emerald Countess

Vaal, 20.11.2025, Race 4, Gallops, 1400m, Turf, R105.000, 13:30GMT+2

Race Summary: DELAWARE RIVER finished a close fourth over a similar trip last time so won't need to improve much to fight out the finish in her peak outing. BABETTE'S FEAST showed promise in 2 starts as a juvenile against older rivals and could open her account with any improvement on her reappearance after a 112-day absence. LADY LIMONCELLO and SAVARA'S PRINCESS also have the form and experience make their presence felt. Look for improvement from APOSTROPHE and MADE TO MEASURE.

Selections:

#10 Babette's Feast, #2 Delaware River, #1 Lady Limoncello, #5 Savara's Princess

Vaal, 20.11.2025, Race 5, Gallops, 2000m, Turf, R160.000, 14:05GMT+2

Race Summary: KUDZU acquitted himself well in a similar contest behind a subsequent Grade 3 winner and a repeat of that performance in his peak outing off a 1-point higher mark could suffice. HOTARUBI showed signs of improvement in a 2400m feature earlier this month and, even under top weight, could have a role to play off a 2-point lower mark. DOUGLAS DRAGON ran on to finish a close third over shorter last time so this extended trip could be more to his liking. Hard-knocking veterans IMPERIAL MASTER, FLASHY APACHE and ARUMUGAM aren't taken lightly.

Selections:

#6 Kudzu, #1 Hotarubi, #9 Douglas Dragon, #4 Imperial Master

Vaal, 20.11.2025, Race 6, Gallops, 2000m, Turf, R135.000, 14:40GMT+2

Race Summary: Progressive HAZY DAZY relished the step up to this trip when winning easily last time so a resultant 5-point penalty may not be enough to prevent her from winning again. Hat-trick seeking fillies ARTIC SILVER and NKWENKWEZI are at the peak of their powers but this demands a career-best performance. As such, a bigger threat to the selection will likely be posed by familiar foes KISSING MACHINE and AZALEAS FOR ALL who are closely matched on these terms. Top-weight ROYAL INVITATION and recent runner-up (against males) CARTAGENA complete the shortlist.

Selections:

#5 Hazy Dazy, #2 Kissing Machine, #3 Azaleas For All, #1 Royal Invitation

Vaal, 20.11.2025, Race 7, Gallops, 2000m, Turf, R105.000, 15:15GMT+2

Race Summary: Paul Matchett has a strong hand with three runners spearheaded by consistent MATCHA MINT who, given her pedigree, is open to any amount of improvement over this extended trip. Stablemate SURPRISE PARTY was outclassed in a 1400m Grade 3 at the start of the month but she, too, is likely to improve for the step up to this distance. Recent maiden winners REJUVENATE and ETHICAL opened their accounts over 1800m last time and should have more to offer stretching out to this trip.

Selections:

#1 Matcha Mint, #3 Ethical, #4 Surprise Party, #8 Rejuvenate

Vaal, 20.11.2025, Race 8, Gallops, 1700m, Turf, R90.000, 15:50GMT+2

Race Summary: Go wide in the exotics. MICHAEL FARADAY didn't land a blow in a recent 1000m handicap but this trip will be more to his liking. Last-start maiden winner SCARLETT HEART is maturing and remains open to improvement after a 12-week break. THE MIGHTIEST, GAMER, CIRCLE OF GRACE and CREPUSCOLO are hard knockers with the means to acquit themselves competitively too. BLURRED VISION will be better suited to a firmer surface and should not be underestimated.

Selections:

#2 Scarlett Heart, #1 Michael Faraday, #4 Gamer, #3 The Mightiest

Vaal, 20.11.2025, Race 9, Gallops, 1400m, Turf, R120.000, 16:25GMT+2

Race Summary: It's hard to oppose COSMIC SPEED, a proven top-level performer and Grade 1 winner. Sean Tarry's charge resumes after a 166-day absence but won't need to be fully tuned to make a winning reappearance. Stablemate SHADOWFAX is progressive and would've come on from his pleasing 1200m comeback, so he could improve to complete a stable Exacta. MASTER CHRISTMAS and PRINCE OF KILDARE are honest hard-knockers with earning potential. Last-start winner COPPOLA will find this tougher but could take home a cheque along with PLUS FOUR.

Selections:

#4 Cosmic Speed, #11 Shadowfax, #2 Master Christmas, #9 Plus Four

Vaal, 20.11.2025, Race 10, Gallops, 1200m, Turf, R100.000, 17:00GMT+2

Race Summary: CAPTAIN SELVIE, QUIET WINTER and SHE'S ALL MINE are 3yo fillies with more scope for improvement than their opposition. However, older male rivals SPY STORY, PEREGRINE FALCON, CAPTAIN EFFICIENT and PRIZED PLATINUM will make life difficult. Mares ROYAL

HORIZON and WESTERN WISHES have the means to stake a claim, as do class-droppers SERRANO (respected on his return) and PALACE REVOLT.

Selections:

#7 Quiet Winter, #5 Captain Selvie, #10 Spy Story, #8 She's All Mine

Best Win: #4 COSMIC SPEED

Best Value Bet: #2 SCARLETT HEART

Best Longshot: #2 SCARLETT HEART