

RACE BY RACE PREVIEWS: VAAL@2026.01.24

Vaal, 24.01.2026, Race 1, Gallops, 1200m, Turf, R130.000, 11:40GMT+2

Race Summary: GIMME A VODKA was touched off on debut over a shorter trip and won't need to improve much with that experience under the belt to go one better. DADS DREAM finished ahead of newcomer THEODORE ROOSEVELD last time and should have the measure of that rival again. Both should have more to offer over this extended trip. Newcomers MAGIC PATH, NIGHTSHINE and SILVER COMET are worth a market check on debut.

Selections:

#3 Gimme A Vodka, #1 Dads Dream, #5 Nightshine, #4 Magic Path

Vaal, 24.01.2026, Race 2, Gallops, 1200m, Turf, R105.000, 12:10GMT+2

Race Summary: LOLLY WILLOWES outran market expectations when finishing ahead of MASTER'S LADY last time. She's open to further improvement but the experienced latter will probably be more effective given a patient ride, so she could be worth another chance. Improving MYSTICAL BUTTERFLY, recent runners-up FIERY FROLIC and BABY RED, as well as returning DETAILED FORECAST, have all shown enough to make their presence felt. Newcomers MISS FANTASTIC and VYFSTER are bred to be useful so any market support would speak volumes of their chances on debut. Watch the betting!

Selections:

#1 Master's Lady, #11 Lolly Willowes, #12 Miss Fantastic, #14 Vvfster

Vaal, 24.01.2026, Race 3, Gallops, 1200m, Turf, R120.000, 12:45GMT+2

Race Summary: Runner-up in both starts after he was gelded, well-related STONEYWOOD will be hard to beat with any improvement over this extended trip in his peak outing. TASKMASTER, back from a break, last-start runner-up MONKEY'S WEDDING, and returning BALULE have the form and experience to pose a threat. TRACKSUIT DAVE will know more about after a pleasing introduction so could get into the picture too. Watch the betting on newcomer FIRE STORM and respect any market support.

Selections:

#2 Stoneywood, #1 Taskmaster, #8 Balule, #13 Tracksuit Dave

Vaal, 24.01.2026, Race 4, Gallops, 1200m, Turf, R100.000, 13:20GMT+2

Race Summary: Many with chances in a big field but the value lies with class-dropper ROCKAROUNDTHECLOCK who was backed to win a stronger contest last time and races off an unchanged mark with the benefit of a 2.5kg apprentice claim. PEREGRINE FALCON and ROYAL HORIZON are consistent performers at this level with solid form credentials, so their chances have to be respected. PHALA MILLIONS, with shoes refitted, recent close-up 3rd HATHIGHWAYTOTHESKY, recent runner-up PRIZED PLATINUM, and class-dropper CAN YOU DANSE also have the means to make their presence felt. Several others have earning potential too.

Selections:

#2 Rockaroundtheclock, #4 Peregrine Falcon, #14 Royal Horizon, #15 Phala Millions

Vaal, 24.01.2026, Race 5, Gallops, 2400m, Turf, R110.000, 13:55GMT+2

Race Summary: Consistent ARLINGTON ACTION bounced back to form at this level over the same trip last time and a repeat of that effort may well suffice. Veteran BANHA BRIDGE is distance suited and is likely to remain competitive off a reduced mark. POMOZELOUS and younger filly TOP SHELF TEDDY (trying the trip) are also weighted to play leading roles. MILITARY MOVES could have more to offer over this trip, while hard knocker THE MERCIFUL is another with earning potential.

Selections:

#1 Arlington Action, #2 Banha Bridge, #4 Military Moves, #10 Pomozelous

Vaal, 24.01.2026, Race 6, Gallops, 2400m, Turf, R225.000, 14:35GMT+2

Race Summary: Competitive Listed event. SOLDIER'S EYE was 2nd at this level last time but ventures into the unknown over this extended trip. Last-start winner ROYAL INVITATION and runner-up POPLAR PARK (2kg better off) are distance suited and at the top of their games, so they ought to play leading roles on current form. Recent scorer WOMAN'S WORLD fits a similar profile and may be leniently treated under a 5-point penalty. KEY WORKER has no stamina issues and will appreciate an honest tempo. KISSING MACHINE, TEO TORRIATTE and LITTLEMISSPLENDID also have the means to have a say in the outcome. Good race!

Selections:

#2 Royal Invitation, #5 Poplar Park, #8 Kissing Machine, #10 Littlemisssplendid

Vaal, 24.01.2026, Race 7, Gallops, 1800m, Turf, R250.000, 15:10GMT+2

Race Summary: The 2nd of 2 Listed races and THE ULTIMATE KING is hard to oppose on the evidence of his last-start 3rd in the Grade 1 Summer Cup, even under a 2-point penalty. BUSTER BARNES caught the eye when a fast-finishing 3rd in a 1600m Listed event last time and this extended trip may be more to his liking. Last-start winner GERBERA and runner-up COPPER EAGLE remain competitive off their current marks, as does versatile PIONEER SQUARE who will appreciate the extended trip. CHOISANADA, ARISTOTLE and WILLY MEET AGAIN have the means to get involved too.

Selections:

#1 The Ultimate King, #5 Buster Barnes, #8 Gerbera, #9 Pioneer Square

Vaal, 24.01.2026, Race 8, Gallops, 1700m, Turf, R100.000, 15:45GMT+2

Race Summary: Good race. Recent winners TROMBOLINES and JAFFA impressed with maiden victories over shorter and they remain open to improvement stretching out to this trip. The latter's stablemate, TOMMY ATKINS, however, appears the pick of the Alec Laird runners on riding arrangements. Top-weight PAGE BOY races off a reduced mark so is dangerous to discount, as is consistent PRINCE OF KILDARE who has to prove he is effective beyond 1600m. Filly SCARLETT HEART and hard-knocker BRAVE VIKING complete the shortlist.

Selections:

#2 Trombolines, #6 Jaffa, #4 Tommy Atkins, #5 Prince Of Kildare

Vaal, 24.01.2026, Race 9, Gallops, 1400m, Turf, R160.000, 16:20GMT+2

Race Summary: YIPPEE KIYAY stayed on to finish 4th in a 3yo Grade 3 over the same trip and a repeat of that effort off an unchanged mark should suffice. Fellow sophomore PALACE PRINCE concedes 2kg but has both the form and experience to make life difficult for the selection. Best-weighted TOO LATE MY MATE is consistent and ideally distance suited so must be taken seriously, especially under a 2.5kg claimer. FRANCILIEN and BIRTHRIGHT appeal most of the remainder.

Selections:

#4 Yippee Kiyay, #2 Palace Prince, #9 Too Late My Mate, #5 Francilien

Vaal, 24.01.2026, Race 10, Gallops, 1400m, Turf, R80.000, 16:55GMT+2

Race Summary: Maturing MATTIAZO was a fluent winner against male opposition last time and a hefty 8-point penalty isn't likely to halt her momentum back in same-sex company. Last-start

course-and-distance winner CAN'T CATCH ME and runner-up GOLDEN ASPEN (1.5kg better off) arrive in good form and are likely to pose a threat in receipt of weight from the selection. MADAME POMPADOUR, SPIRITED GIRL, PARIS FUN and KYLIE'S ANGEL have Quartet claims.

Selections:

#4 Mattiazo, #8 Golden Aspen, #10 Can'T Catch Me, #12 Madame Pompadour

Best Win: #3 GIMME A VODKA

Best Value Bet: #2 ROCKAROUNDTHECLOCK

Best Longshot: #2 ROCKAROUNDTHECLOCK