

RACE BY RACE PREVIEWS: VAAL CLASSIC@2026.05.04

Vaal Classic, 04.05.2026, Race 1, Gallops, 1000m, Turf, R75.000, 12:20GMT+2

Race Summary: PRINCESS OF ALL returns from a break after an excusable last start but should play a leading role if bouncing back to her earlier form. HURRICANE POWER, EMPRESS WU and LADY ENID have the form and experience to make their presence felt too, while FOXY AFTER DARK should know more about it after an introductory outing. Newcomers BLAZING BREEZE and BRIGHT COMET are worth a market check on debut.

Selections:

#1 Princess Of All, #7 Bright Comet, #4 Empress Wu, #8 Lady Enid

Vaal Classic, 04.05.2026, Race 2, Gallops, 1000m, Turf, R75.000, 12:55GMT+2

Race Summary: HAMMER BLOW and BUFFALO KING CODY have the form credentials to fight out the finish. However, it could pay to side with the 2yo latter who improved to finish 2nd in both starts with blinkers fitted and remains open to further progress after a subsequent gelding. GUNBOAT and SECOND TO NUNN could have roles to play if building on the improvement of their career-best latest outings. Newcomer AUTOGRAPH is bred to be useful and won't need to be special to make his presence felt either.

Selections:

#7 Buffalo King Cody, #1 Hammer Blow, #6 Autograph, #3 Second To Nunn

Vaal Classic, 04.05.2026, Race 3, Gallops, 1450m, Turf, R75.000, 13:30GMT+2

Race Summary: TIME HONORED makes his Highveld debut for a new stable after a layoff. On the strength of his Cape Town form, he looks ideally placed to make a winning reappearance. BEACH WALKER, BRAVE WAAM and EHHFIFTEENKJOE have shown enough to be competitive, though newcomer 2yo TREX ON FIRE will not have to be out of the ordinary to play a role either.

Selections:

#2 Time Honored, #5 Brave Waam, #1 Beach Walker, #8 Trex On Fire

Vaal Classic, 04.05.2026, Race 4, Gallops, 1450m, Turf, R75.000, 14:05GMT+2

Race Summary: LOLLY WILLOWES sets the standard on the strength and consistency of her form, and she will be hard to beat on her Highveld return. GATHERING WINTER and WISPINTHEWILLOW could have more to offer over this extended trip. Both have the means to challenge the selection. STELLA VICTORIOUS should have a role to play if building on recent improvement, though a bigger threat may come from Futura debutante FASHION NEWS, who is her trainer's only runner on the day. CASH OUT is another worth mentioning, with better expected of her after an excusable introduction.

Selections:

#1 Lolly Willowes, #2 Gathering Winter, #3 Wispinthewillow, #6 Fashion News

Vaal Classic, 04.05.2026, Race 5, Gallops, 1200m, Turf, R100.000, 14:40GMT+2

Race Summary: TRAIL RUNNER sets the standard on the strength and consistency of her form and as the joint best-weighted runner in the race. Hard-knocker TIME FOR CHARITY is effective over this distance and is also weighted to be competitive. KING OF NUMBERS, UBERMENSCH, NKANDLA GOLD and DARING ACT are out of sorts but have the means to get involved.

Selections:

#3 Trail Runner, #7 Time For Charity, #2 Ubermensch, #5 Daring Act

Vaal Classic, 04.05.2026, Race 6, Gallops, 1700m, Turf, R75.000, 15:20GMT+2

Race Summary: ROYALE JACKET has been found wanting over 1800m so should enjoy cutting back to the shorter trip with the headgear removed. He has the form and experience to play a leading role but is vulnerable to unexposed MASTER BUDDY. The latter was a career-best 4th stretching out to 1600m last time and remains open to further improvement over the extra 100m. WINDING POWER, who has both the form and experience to be competitive, fits a similar profile with an accomplished work rider aboard. CRONUS and youngster FIELD OF DREAMS appeal most of the remainder.

Selections:

#1 Master Buddy, #3 Winding Power, #2 Royale Jacket, #4 Cronus

Vaal Classic, 04.05.2026, Race 7, Gallops, 2000m, Turf, R100.000, 15:55GMT+2

Race Summary: ARIOVISTUS has rediscovered form since relocating to the Highveld, running well in defeat at a higher level with blinkers fitted. He races without the headgear but a repeat of either performance could suffice. AMERICAN REBEL is held on recent form but will strip fitter after a comeback run so should get closer to that rival. ZIP CODE, NARETOI and REAL STUNNER are closely matched on the form of a recent 1800m meeting, and they could have a say in outcome if seeing out the extra 200m. Best-weighted CARTAGENA had excuses for a disappointing last start and is capable of playing a role.

Selections:

#2 Ariovistus, #3 Zip Code, #4 Cartagena, #6 Real Stunner

Vaal Classic, 04.05.2026, Race 8, Gallops, 1600m, Turf, R100.000, 16:30GMT+2

Race Summary: TRACKSUIT DAVE improved for the step up to this trip when running out a wide-margin winner of his last start. He remains open to further progress in his peak outing and is ideally placed to follow up. SPACE MISSION, PEARL IN HER CROWN and APOSTROPHE have shown enough to pose a threat to that rival, especially in receipt of weight from the selection. NORTHERN KITTEN and SHEETS AND GOGGLES complete the shortlist.

Selections:

#2 Tracksuit Dave, #3 Space Mission, #4 Pearl In Her Crown, #8 Northern Kitten

Best Win: #2 TRACKSUIT DAVE

Best Value Bet: #2 ARIOVISTUS

Best Longshot: #2 ARIOVISTUS