

KENILWORTH SUMMER COURSE VS WINTER COURSE AND A FEW OTHER NOTABLE GENERAL MENTIONS



What is a run-in?

The run-in is the straight stretch of a racecourse (that has a turn) leading up to the finish line.

Why does it matter?

A difference in the run-in can greatly affect a horse's performance due to their unique running styles. Some horses like to go off to lead, whilst others hang back in and finish off the race strongly by accelerating once they round the home turn, and a longer run-in would give strong finishers more opportunity to be on better terms at the finish with more room to run on. A difference in the run-in is also a factor when considering in what draw gate a horse will be starting the race from. Wider draws (when running around a bend) would be more of a factor on a shorter run-in than on a longer run-in, as early positioning in the run becomes more important, and it's notably more difficult to get into a good early position from a wide draw without the horse possibly overexerting themself.

But aren't good horses versatile and always, good?

Largely, yes, class does generally prevail, but this is a game of small factors making all the difference. That's why we go on about roughly 500kg horses carrying a few kilograms more or less on their backs in each race against other horses. Because horses that race against one another (besides most Maiden races) are of a comparable skill level and are weight adjusted in an effort to account for imbalances in their skill and experience level (amongst other handcapping considerations), minor factors and advantages make lengths of difference at the end of each race, and a horse being better suited to a longer/shorter run-in is not that much different to all the other factors we consider each day, so it's important to consider when there's any significant changes.

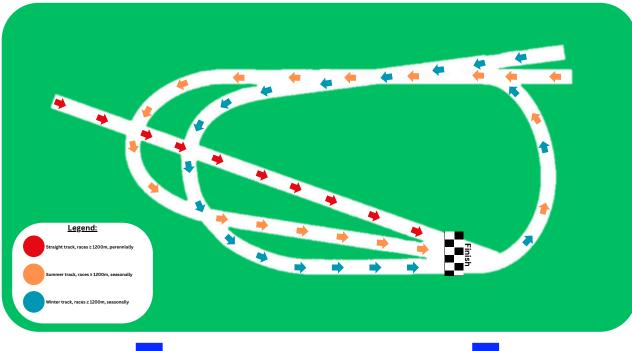
How would I know if a horse is better/would be better over a shorter or longer run-in?

When there's a wholesale change like the change from Kenilworth Winter Track to the Summer Track, I'll let you know similar to this, and point out certain horses that may be better geared to the longer run-in in Raceday Ready.

If looking into it on your own, look at the horse's running style by watching key races and reading the notes of the run on the racecard. If a horse has notably better form over a shorter/longer run-in, you have your answer.

For a more in depth look, consider where the horse likes to be in the run (leading, handy, hanging back), as well as how and when it finishes off its races best. This isn't a one look fix and trainers may employ different tactics in preparation for certain races or seasonal spells at certain courses, but it's generally a good gauge to see whether a horse is well-suited to the course they're carded to run on. It's important to consider where a horse has ran most of its races and how those races have went for them. For example, Vaal to Greyville Turf is a massive difference of roughly 550m shorter in the run-in, if the horse is used to a longer run-in at Vaal, they may find themselves short on room to run on at Greyville over the shorter run-in unless getting into a good early position or going off to lead, the draw and early gate speed would be co-factors and could aid or hinder their chances in achieving that.

What's up with Kenilworth?







- Generally in use around May to November (when not at Durbanville).
- "Out of season" track; doesn't host the main seasonal Cape racing like the Guineas, King's Plate, Met, and Derby racecards.
- Significantly shorter run-in compared to the Summer Track and Durbanville, only 450m.
- Feature runners would generally be going through preparation runs and warm ups to the main feature races when racing here. As important as considering form here could be, generally take it with a pinch of salt when under consideration for one of the bigger feature races. Would be more beneficial to watch the races back and take any negatives/positives from the actual run rather than just looking at the results and such.





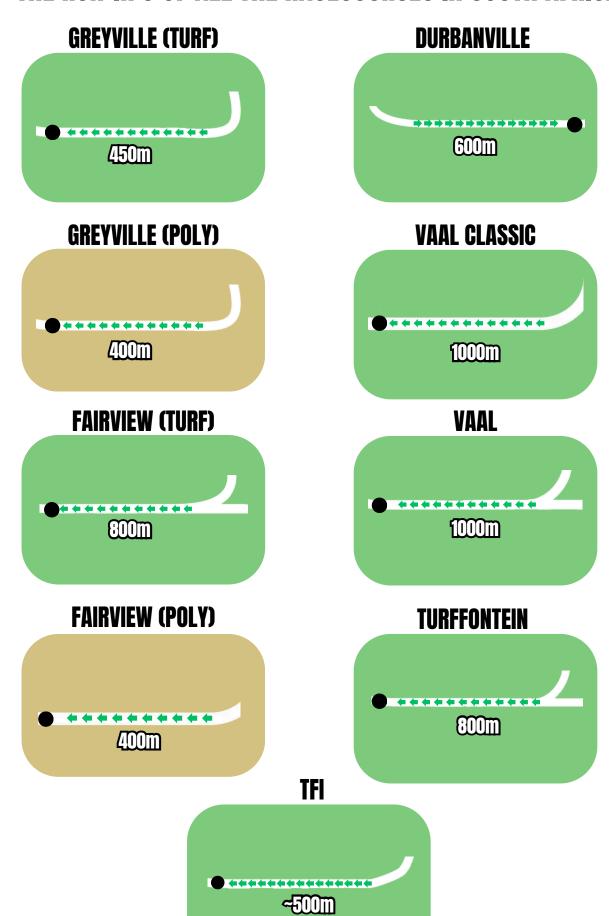
Summer Track

- Generally in use around late November to May (with a few visits to Durbanville after the main seasonal feature racecards).
- Hosts all the major Cape racedays, including 8 G1 races. In my opinion, the best quality racing in the country.
- Longer run-in in comparison to the Winter Course at 600m coupled with superior turf in comparison to Durbanville (along with the straight track for conjusts)
- You'll find the best and most honest racing here, not just from a prestige standpoint, many top horses and future prospects are far better suited to run at this course, and you'll see the best work from many of them when running here.

So, what can we expect with the track change?

- Most top horses are better suited to running on the Summer Track, so many of them will be able to turn the form on a few disappointing and hard luck results we've seen recently at Durbanville and on the Winter Track.
- Better finishes to races with stronger finishers being able to see off their races properly.
- Wider draws being slightly less of a hindering factor for capable horses.
- Poorer results from a few that are better geared for runs on the Winter Track, a number of formlines would be largely void
 or not as important.
- Vast improvement from 3 and 4 year olds that haven't been able to get the right race at Durbanville or on the Winter Track vet.

THE RUN-IN'S OF ALL THE RACECOURSES IN SOUTH AFRICA



THE RUN-IN'S OF ALL THE RACECOURSES IN SOUTH AFRICA (CONTINUED)

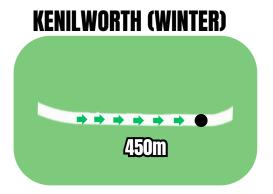




550m



KENILWORTH (SUMMER)



The run-in's of all the racecourses in South Africa

