

QIPCO KING GEORGE DAY

ASCOT BETTING GUIDE

SATURDAY 29 JULY

at the races



ASCOT

RACE 1

GREATWOOD CHARITY
25TH ANNIVERSARY
BRITISH EBF CROCKER
BULTEEL MAIDEN,
6f

£50,000

RACE 2

BATEAUX LONDON
PRINCESS MARGARET
STAKES,
6f

£60,000

RACE 3

LONGINES VALIANT
STAKES (GROUP 3),
7f 213y

£80,000

RACE 4

MOET & CHANDON
INTERNATIONAL
STAKES,
7f

£150,000

RACE 5



KING GEORGE VI AND
QUEEN ELIZABETH
QIPCO STAKES,
1m 3f 211y

£1.25m

RACE 6

FLEXJET PAT EDDERY
STAKES (LISTED),
7f

£50,000

RACE 7

BETFRED HANDICAP,
1m

£60,000

RACE 8

WHISPERING ANGEL
HANDICAP,
5f

£60,000



EXPERT TIPS

Sky Sports Racing's John Hunt reveals his best bets on Saturday's stunning King George day card at Ascot.



RACE 4 MOET & CHANDON INTERNATIONAL STAKES

SELECTION VAFORTINO (7)

VAFORTINO is rightly regarded as one of the favourites and can resume winning ways. He loves Ascot having won last year's Victoria Cup and turned up again this year with an excellent third behind Rebel Territory and fellow big race fancy Biggles. Clearly fine margins will decide the outcome but I'm hoping the masterstroke from trainer Kevin Phillipart de Foy is the booking of 5lbs claiming rider Kaiya Fraser, who has made really nice progress once again this season and can hopefully secure a first Ascot win.

RACE 5 KING GEORGE VI AND QUEEN ELIZABETH QIPCO STAKES

SELECTION LUXEMBOURG (5)

The King George is a belter and like everyone else, I can't wait to see how things pan out but the massive double figure odds for LUXEMBOURG just look plain wrong. He has only run over the mile and half once before, in Alpinista's Arc on really testing ground so he cannot be judged fairly on that alone. He is well worth another chance especially when you consider how strongly he finished when winning last year's Irish Champion Stakes and this season's Tattersalls Gold Cup, really strong at the line on both occasions. I'm expecting him to run a really big race.

RACE 6 FLEXJET PAT EDDERY STAKES

SELECTION SUNWAY (10)

SUNWAY is my strongest fancy of the day. His debut at Sandown was visually electric, rider Oisin Murphy purred about it afterwards and there is no surprise that he retains the ride. Time will probably tell that he didn't beat a great deal that day but the manner of the victory was compelling all the same, and he's a full-brother to Champion Stakes winner Sealiway, who loved soft ground. In Sunway we have a horse with all the talent and a fantastic pedigree, racing on ground that looks like it will suit perfectly. I can't wait to see him run.

RACE 7 BETFRED HANDICAP

SELECTION LOWTON (10)

LOWTON is another horse who will have conditions to suit on the day. His narrow victory at Leicester came with cut in the ground and he is by Pivotal whose two most celebrated offspring have been soft ground lovers Addeybb and Farhh. Lowton also looks to be a horse crying out for the step up to a mile. His second win at Newcastle was all the more meritorious as he was steadied at the start and had plenty to do two out. It was a smart effort to get up to win and he showed a terrific, head down attitude there too.

“WHAT THEY SAY”

Quotes from connections ahead of

RACE 5 KING GEORGE VI AND QUEEN ELIZABETH QIPCO STAKES



AUGUSTE RODIN

“Every week he is progressing. Physically, he is getting stronger and he’s growing still. We always had in mind that’s what we’d do. The plan after the Derby has always been to go to the Curragh and then Ascot.”

Aidan O’Brien,
Trainer



KING OF STEEL

“He’s in good form. He’s done all we have asked of him and we are looking forward to it. He handled soft ground last season and while he hasn’t really been tested on it since he has been with us, there is no reason to think he won’t handle it.”

Roger Varian,
Trainer



HUKUM

“It’s not as if he doesn’t go on faster ground but it does look as if we’ve had a bit of luck that it’s going to be around Good to Soft. He’s been in good form. We had to let him down a fraction because we didn’t run at Ascot but his build-up in the past three weeks as gone well. Jim Crowley has been in and rode him a couple of times and he was very pleased.”

Owen Burrows,
Trainer



PYLEDRIVER

“I think he’s in exceptional order. We haven’t had to do anything, it’s just been a natural progression from Royal Ascot to here. He’s improved from the run, just like you’d hope.”

William Muir,
Trainer



EMILY UPJOHN

“We’re there on our merits and the distance suits us. I think the industry is benefiting from these high-quality fields. What is thrilling is to take on the big battalions.”

John Stack,
Co-Owner



LUXEMBOURG

“He was pestered in the Prince Of Wales’s Stakes and the American horse Classic Causeway just messed up Ryan’s clock. He got taken on all the way and it gave us no chance. We think he’s better than that. He’ll be very happy going a mile-and-a-half.”

Aidan O’Brien,
Trainer



DEAUVILLE LEGEND

“We were very pleased with his Royal Ascot run behind Pyledriver. That was after a long layoff and he should improve significantly. I’d like to take him back to Australia later in the season, but he deserves to take his chance in this.”

James Ferguson,
Trainer



Deauville Legend on the way to winning at Newmarket racecourse

HOLLIE DOYLE

Get the word from Sky Sports Racing's record-breaking ambassador on her rides at Ascot.



RACE 4

MOET & CHANDON INTERNATIONAL STAKES

BOPEDRO (10)



"I felt I was a shade unlucky on him at Newmarket last weekend. We just didn't get the space we needed at a crucial stage of the race, but he flew home to finish a good third. I'm hoping compensation awaits here because this old boy deserves to get his head in front again. He should get the strong pace he thrives upon and has run well over this 7f before."

RACE 6

FLEXJET PAT EDDERY STAKES

CHATURANGA (6)



"This unbeaten colt is pitched into a highly-competitive race, but he deserves to take his chance after winning over 6f at Redcar in May and then over this longer trip at Haydock last month."

RACE 7

BETFRED HANDICAP

LOWTON (10)



"He steps out of novice company for the first time but has looked progressive in winning in maiden and novice company at Leicester and Newcastle, and he gets weight from most of his rivals here. He coped well with soft conditions at the Midlands track in May, so should be comfortable with similar ground at Ascot, and the way he defied a penalty on the Tapeta last time suggests he'll enjoy this stiff mile."

RACE 8

WHISPERING ANGEL HANDICAP

RHYTHM N HOOVES (8)



"The 9lb hike up the rankings that he was hit with after his Royal Ascot win looks harsh, to say the least. He takes on the older horses on ground softer than he's previously encountered, but at least we know he's effective over course and distance and we have a good middle draw in stall 7."



Rhythm N Hooves ridden by Hollie Doyle wins at Royal Ascot

TIMEFORM TIPS

RACE

1

1st **KODIAC THRILLER** (7)

2nd **APPELLANT** (2)

3rd **ALJEZUR** (1)

RACE

2

1st **PRETTY CRYSTAL** (8)

2nd **SYMBOLGY** (11)

3rd **LUNAR SHINE** (7)

RACE

3

1st **CADEAU BELLE** (5)

2nd **RANDOM HARVEST** (2)

3rd **AMEYNAH** (1)

RACE

4

1st **BARADAR** (14)

2nd **VAFORTINO** (7)

3rd **BIGGLES** (3)

RACE

5

1st **KING OF STEEL** (11)

2nd **AUGUSTE RODIN** (10)

3rd **EMILY UPJOHN** (9)

RACE

6

1st **SUNWAY** (10)

2nd **ANCIENT WISDOM** (3)

3rd **ROSALLION** (9)

RACE

7

1st **LATTAM** (6)

2nd **GHALY** (2)

3rd **LOWTON** (10)

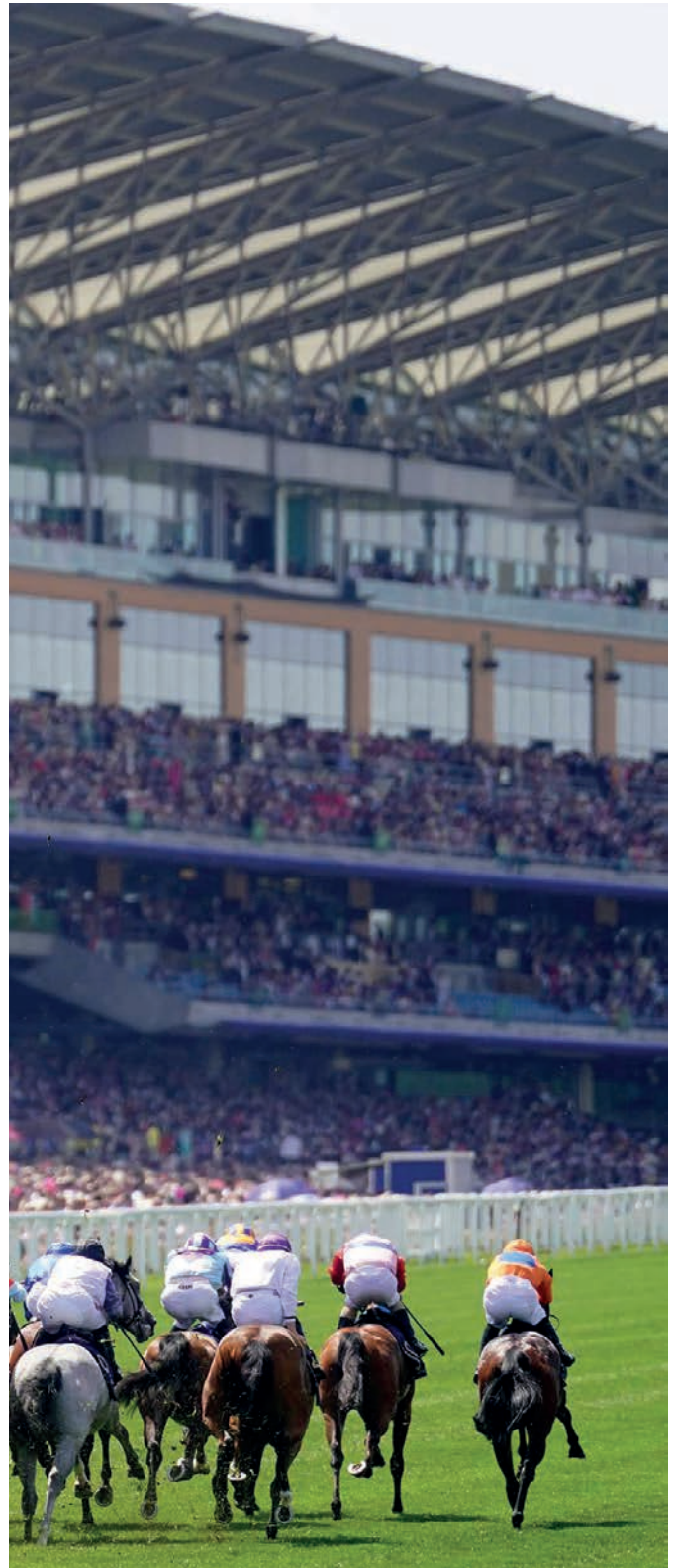
RACE

8

1st **SIGNIFICANTLY** (7)

2nd **THE BIG BOARD** (9)

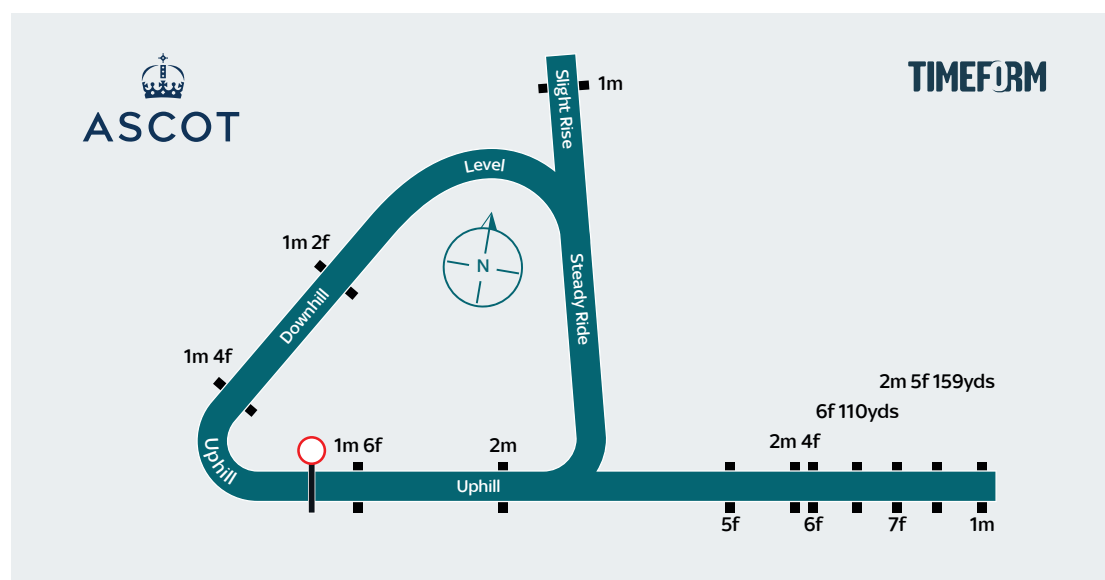
3rd **RHYTHM N HOOVES** (8)



GUIDE TO ASCOT

By Classic-winning jockey and Sky Sports Racing presenter **Jason Weaver**

“ Because the run-in on Ascot’s round course is relatively short, positioning - jockeyship in other words - is key. It goes without saying that in steadily-run races you want to be towards the sharp end but, whatever the pace, you can get into trouble trying to come through rivals late on. We’re still learning about the straight course, following the relaying a few years back, but in my view it’s more pace-dependent than draw-dependent. Given the right pace to chase, I reckon you can win from anywhere. ”



The round course is a right-handed, triangular circuit of fourteen furlongs, with a run-in of 2½ furlongs. There is a straight mile course and the Old mile course which joins the round course in Swinley Bottom. Despite the downhill run into Swinley Bottom and relatively short run-in from the final turn, Ascot is galloping in character. Since the redevelopment, the turn into the straight has become more sweeping and those ridden prominently can be difficult to peg back. Nowadays, the ground in the straight drains quicker than the rest of the course, meaning going descriptions can vary.

