

DONCASTER

BETTING GUIDE

Saturday 22 October

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VERTEM FUTURITY TROPHY DAY

Saturday sees the final Group 1 contest of the UK flat season, as Doncaster stages the Vertem Futurity Trophy for two-year-olds.

Won by the likes of Authorised, St Nicholas Abbey, Camelot, Saxon Warrior and Kameko, the one-mile contest is sure to showcase some key Classic contenders for the 2023 Flat season.

RACE 1

SCOTT DOBSON
MEMORIAL
HANDICAP
7F

RACE 2

VERTEM LEADING
THE FIELD
NURSERY
7F

RACE 3

VERTEM VERY
DIFFERENT
STOCKBROKERS
HANDICAP
1M4F

RACE 4

CARLSBERG
MARSTONS
DONCASTER
STAKES
6F

RACE 5

FEATURE
RACE

VERTEM FUTURITY
TROPHY STAKES
(GROUP 1)
1M

RACE 6

VERTEM.CO.UK
HANDICAP
5F

RACE 7

THINK SMART
AT VERTEM
HANDICAP
7F

TIMEFORM TIPS

RACE 1

1st **MASTER ZOFFANY** (12)
2nd **CLIFFCAKE** (17)
3rd **EAGLEWAY** (8)

RACE 2

1st **VECCHIO** (3)
2nd **QUEEN'S EYOT** (7)
3rd **SERIOUS LOOK** (2)

RACE 3

1st **WANDERING ROCKS** (5)
2nd **SIR RUMI** (3)
3rd **ISRAR** (2)

RACE 4

1st **AESOP'S FABLES** (1)
2nd **BRESSON** (4)
3rd **HISPANIC** (5)

RACE 5

1st **AUGUSTE RODIN** (1)
2nd **EPICTETUS** (4)
3rd **KING OF STEEL** (6)

RACE 6

1st **LULLABY BAY** (13)
2nd **KIMNGRACE** (6)
3rd **CAME FROM THE DARK** (1)

RACE 7

1st **COLD STARE** (5)
2nd **ZIP** (3)
3rd **RICH WATERS** (13)



Camelot claims Group 1 glory in 2011 at Doncaster



Luxembourg wins the 2021 Vertem Futurity Trophy



Magna Grecia wins the 2018 Vertem Futurity Trophy

“WHAT THEY SAY”

Quotes from connections ahead of Saturday's Group 1 Vertem Futurity Trophy.

AUGUSTE RODIN

Aidan O'Brien, Trainer



"We've always thought the world of him. He didn't win on debut, but he ran a very good race. The plan was always to be easy on him and bring him back for bigger targets. Everything has gone very well since then and it was a polished performance in the Group 2 KPMG Juvenile Stakes last time."

EPICTETUS

John Gosden, Trainer



"We were overjoyed with his debut win at Newmarket, as he'd done nothing at home but was ready for a run and did everything very professionally. It was another step forward in Group company over a mile last time and he's done well since then."

KING OF STEEL

David Loughnane, Trainer



"We'll roll the dice and see what happens. He only ran 10 days ago so he's not done a whole lot of work. He's a very naturally fit horse and it feels as if he's come on from the run. He has an exceptional mind and we'd like to think there will be plenty of natural progression."

STORMBUSTER

David Bowe,

Racing manager for owner Jeff Smith



"I think we saw the real McCoy for the Haynes, Hanson & Clark at Newbury. It is a natural step to go to Doncaster with him and see how we get on. But whatever the situation is there I think we have a nice horse for next year to campaign at whatever level he finds himself at."

HOLLOWAY BOY

Karl Burke, Trainer



"Danny is convinced a mile is his trip and I agree with him. He's bred for it and although he travels strongly, he gallops out well. Hopefully he runs well."

DANCING MAGIC

Roger Teal, Trainer



"He definitely deserves his chance in a race like that and I'd bring him right into it if the ground became softer. He is going to improve with age. If he could finish in the first three or four, then you can look forward to his three-year-old career with excitement."

CAPTAIN WIERZBA

Ralph Beckett, Trainer



"He's more of a three-year-old type, his pedigree would lead you that way and he'll stay a good deal further than 1m. Ground is quite important to him, especially at this stage in his career, so that's why we've opted for Doncaster over Newbury (Horris Hill Stakes)."



Auguste Rodin ridden by Ryan Moore wins at Leopardstown

EXPERT TIPS

By Declan Rix

RACE 3

VERTEM VERY DIFFERENT STOCKBROKERS HANDICAP

SELECTION



ISRAR

Nine of the last 10 runnings of this handicap have gone to the Classic generation meaning three-year-olds look a good starting point. The well-bred **ISRAR** struck me as a horse who would handle cut in the ground earlier in the season, given how he moves in front.

His opening two runs of the campaign suggested he was still a work in progress, even his success in the famous London Gold Cup Handicap at Newbury back in May, but when third in the King George V Stakes at Royal Ascot, behind the now 111-rated Secret State and 115-rated Deauville Legend, giving them both weight, the penny finally looked to be dropping.

The Gosdens produced Emily Upjohn off an extended break beautifully at last week's British Champions Day; I hope they can do the similar with Israr here.

RACE 4

CARLSBERG MARSTONS DONCASTER STAKES (LISTED RACE)

SELECTION



BRESSON (E/W)

If the Aesop's Fables who won the Futurity Stakes back in August turns up, even under a Group 2 penalty, he will likely take this contest, but in two subsequent runs the son of No Nay Never's form have significantly regressed, which must be a concern.

The front-running **BRESSON** has been a model of consistency in five efforts this season, making steady progress in each start, in races which have worked out nicely. On more than one occasion however, his final furlong has been his least convincing which makes this drop down to six furlongs in first-time blinkers interesting. On more than one occasion he's given indications of him not fully concentrating late on in his races and so, the headgear applied could be an excellent move.

He's an each-way bet.

RACE 5

VERTEM FUTURITY TROPHY STAKES (GROUP 1)

SELECTION



AUGUSTE RODIN

Whether **AUGUSTE RODIN** should be a shade of odds-on with a horse of Epictetus's quality in the field is highly debatable, but the Aidan O'Brien-trained inmate will be tough to overturn given he has won on similar ground before.

That came last time out when he won the Group 2 KPMG Champions Juvenile Stakes at Leopardstown on Irish Champions Weekend, but in the John & Thady Gosden-handled Epictetus, the son of Deep Impact will face his classiest foe thus far.

The ground could stretch the stamina of the second favourite however, a variable we have no worries about concerning Auguste Rodin, but you really get the feeling the Coolmore partners-owned colt saves plenty for himself and the bigger the test, the better he will be. That's the distinct impression this colt has given me and on Saturday, I suspect he'll have tightened his grip on the Derby market even further.

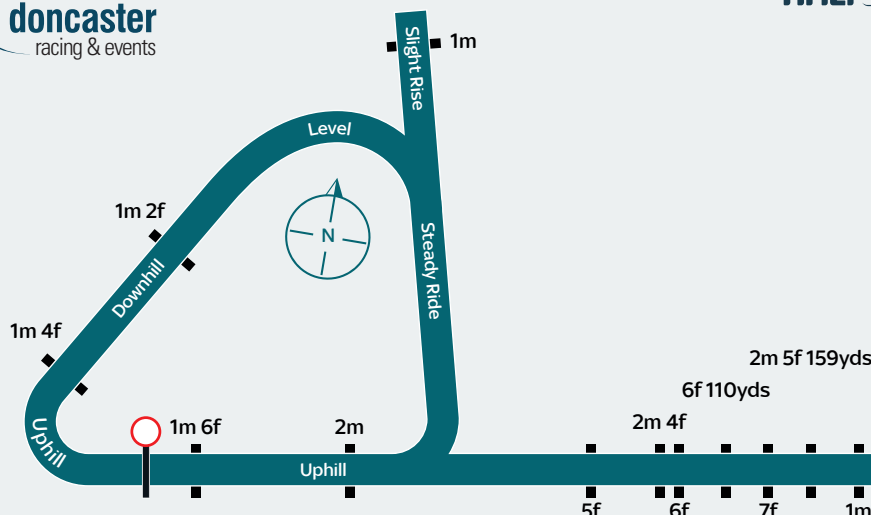
GUIDE TO DONCASTER

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

“ There are not many fairer courses than Doncaster, which is a lovely, virtually flat, galloping track. You do climb briefly, up and over Rose Hill, but, for the most part, it's beautifully smooth to ride, a good, solid test of a horse. There can be one or two hard-luck stories, especially on the round course, when lots of runners are still in contention late on, and that's where jockeyship comes in. I liked to be on the stands' side on the straight course, but either side is fine, just as long as you're not far off a rail. ”



TIMEFORM



Left handed, galloping. One of the fairest courses in the country, essentially flat with the exception of a slight uphill gradient about a mile and a quarter from the finish. Races between five furlongs and one mile are run on the straight course, though there is also a round mile start on an off-shoot of the round course. It is a free-draining course, underfoot conditions only occasionally being soft/heavy.

