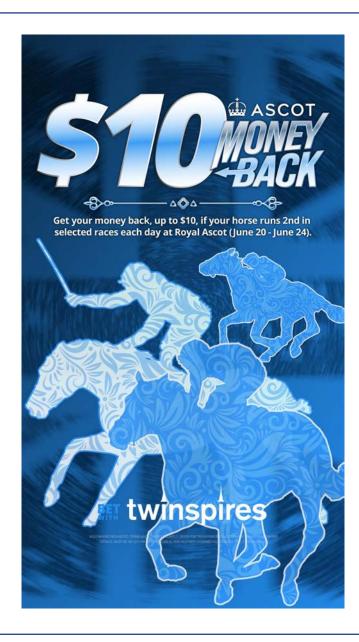
# ROYAL & ASCOT BETTING GUIDE

presented by twinspires

# twinspires ROYAL ASCOT BETTING GUIDE



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### RACE SCHEDULE

#### **TUESDAY - JUNE 20, 2023**

Local Time	UTC	EDT	CDT	MDT	PDT	Race	Age	Prize Fund	Distance
2:30pm	1:30pm	9:30am	8:30am	7:30am	6:30am	The Queen Anne Stakes (Group 1)	4+	£750000	One mile
3:05pm	2:05pm	10:05am	9:05am	8:05am	7:05am	The Coventry Stakes (Group 2)	2	£150000	Six furlongs
3:40pm	2:40pm	10:40am	9:40am	8:40am	7:40am	The King's Stand Stakes (Group 1)	3+	£600000	Five furlongs
4:20pm	3:20pm	11:20am	10:20am	9:20am	8:20am	The St James's Palace Stakes (Group 1)	3 colts	£600000	Old mile
5:00pm	4:00pm	12:00pm	11:00am	10:00am	9:00am	The Ascot Stakes (Handicap)	4+	£100000	Two miles, four furlong
5:35pm	4:35pm	12:35pm	11:35am	10:35am	9:35am	The Wolferton Stakes (Listed)	4+	£110000	One mile, two furlongs
6:10pm	5:10pm	1:10pm	12:10pm	11:10am	10:10am	The Copper Horse Stakes (Handicap)	4+	£100000	One mile, six furlongs



#### WEDNESDAY - JUNE 21, 2023

Local Time	υтс	EDT	CDT	MDT	PDT	Race	Age	Prize Fund	Distance
2:30pm	1:30pm	9:30am	8:30am	7:30am	6:30am	The Queen Mary Stakes (Group 2)	2 fillies	£115000	Five furlongs
3:05pm	2:05pm	10:05am	9:05am	8:05am	7:05am	The Kensington Palace S (Handicap) (Class 2)	4+ F/M	£100000	Old mile
3:40pm	2:40pm	10:40am	9:40am	8:40am	7:40am	The Duke of Cambridge Stakes (Group 2)	4+ F/M	£225000	One Mile
4:20pm	3:20pm	11:20am	10:20am	9:20am	8:20am	The Prince of Wales's Stakes (Group 1)	4+	£1000000	One mile, two furlong
5:00pm	4:00pm	12:00pm	11:00am	10:00am	9:00am	The Royal Hunt Cup (Heritage Handicap)	3+	£175000	One mile
5:35pm	4:35pm	12:35pm	11:35am	10:35am	9:35am	The Queen's Vase (Group 2)	3	£262500	One mile, six furlongs
6:10pm	5:10pm	1:10pm	12:10pm	11:10am	10:10am	The Windsor Castle Stakes (Listed)	2	£100000	Five furlongs

#### THURSDAY - JUNE 22, 2023

Local Time	UTC	EDT	CDT	MDT	PDT	Race	Age	Prize Fund	Distance
2:30pm	1:30pm	9:30am	8:30am	7:30am	6:30am	The Norfolk Stakes (Group 2)	2	£80000	Five furlongs
3:05pm	2:05pm	10:05am	9:05am	8:05am	7:05am	The King George V Stakes (Handicap)	3	£100000	One mile, four furlongs
3:40pm	2:40pm	10:40am	9:40am	8:40am	7:40am	The Ribblesdale Stakes (Group 2)	3 fillies	£225000	One mile, four furlongs
4:20pm	3:20pm	11:20am	10:20am	9:20am	8:20am	The Gold Cup (Group 1)	4+	£600000	Two miles, four furlong
5:00pm	4:00pm	12:00pm	11:00am	10:00am	9:00am	The Britannia Stakes (Heritage Handicap	) 3 C/G	£120000	One mile
5:35pm	4:35pm	12:35pm	11:35am	10:35am	9:35am	The Hampton Court Stakes (Group 3)	3	£150000	One mile, two furlongs
6:10pm	5:10pm	1:10pm	12:10pm	11:10am	10:10am	The Buckingham Palace Stakes (Handicap)	3+	£100000	Seven furlongs



#### **FRIDAY - JUNE 23, 2023**

Local Time	UTC	EDT	CDT	MDT	PDT	Race	Age	Prize Fund	Distance
2:30pm	1:30pm	9:30am	8:30am	7:30am	6:30am	The Albany Stakes (Group 3)	2 fillies	£100000	Six furlongs
3:05pm	2:05pm	10:05am	9:05am	8:05am	7:05am	The Commonwealth Cup (Group 1)	3 C/F	£600000	Six furlongs
3:40pm	2:40pm	10:40am	9:40am	8:40am	7:40am	The Duke of Edinburgh Stakes (Handicap)	3+	£100000	One mile, four furlongs
4:20pm	3:20pm	11:20am	10:20am	9:20am	8:20am	The Coronation Stakes (Group 1)	3 fillies	£600000	Old mile
5:00pm	4:00pm	12:00pm	11:00am	10:00am	9:00am	The Sandringham Stakes (Handicap)	3 fillies	£100000	One mile
5:35pm	4:35pm	12:35pm	11:35am	10:35am	9:35am	The King Edward VII Stakes (Group 2)	3 C/G	£250000	One mile, four furlongs
6:10pm	5:10pm	1:10pm	12:10pm	11:10am	10:10am	The Palace of Holyroodhouse Stakes (Handicap)	3	£100000	Five furlongs

#### SATURDAY - JUNE 18, 2022

Local Time	UTC	EDT	CDT	MDT	PDT	Race	Age	Prize Fund	Distance
2:30pm	1:30pm	9:30am	8:30am	7:30am	6:30am	The Chesham Stakes (Listed)	2	£100000	Seven furlongs
3:05pm	2:05pm	10:05am	9:05am	8:05am	7:05am	The Jersey Stakes (Group 3)	3	£150000	Seven furlongs
3:40pm	2:40pm	10:40am	9:40am	8:40am	7:40am	The Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Stake (Group 1)	4+	£1000000	Six furlongs
4:20pm	3:20pm	11:20am	10:20am	9:20am	8:20am	The Hardwicke Stakes (Group 2)	4+	£225000	One mile, four furlongs
5:00pm	4:00pm	12:00pm	11:00am	10:00am	9:00am	The Wokingham Stakes (Heritage Handicap)	3+	£175000	Six furlongs
5:35pm	4:35pm	12:35pm	11:35am	10:35am	9:35am	The Golden Gates Stakes (Handicap)	3	£100000	One mile, two furlongs
6:10pm	5:10pm	1:10pm	12:10pm	11:10am	10:10am	The Queen Alexandra Stakes (Conditions)	4+	£100000	Two miles, six furlongs



# twinspires

### 2023 ROYAL ASCOT FAQ: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

by Vance Hanson

#### WHAT IS ROYAL ASCOT?

One of the annual highlights of the English social calendar, Royal Ascot is a five-day fixture held at Ascot Racecourse outside London which offers a mixture of unparalleled, highclass racing, royal pageantry, and high fashion. Memorably depicted in the Oscar-winning musical "My Fair Lady," Royal Ascot is a highly formal affair where attendees adhere to a strict dress code. In all enclosures, ladies are required to wear hats or headpieces while suits with ties are required of gentlemen. Black or gray morning dress with top hats are required for gentlemen in the famed Royal Enclosure.



### WHEN IS ROYAL ASCOT AND HOW MANY PEOPLE ATTEND?

Royal Ascot runs from Tuesday, June 20 through Saturday, June 24. Upwards of 300,000 racegoers attend across the five days in normal times.

### WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE RACECOURSE ITSELF?

Racing has been held at Ascot since 1711, when Queen Anne chose the site as an ideal spot for racing while on a drive from her nearby residence at Windsor Castle. The current grandstand, considered among the finest in the world, opened in 2006 with a budget of £220 million.

The course is right-handed and triangular-shaped with a circumference of approximately 1 3/4 miles. One mile races begin from one of two chutes. The Old Mile starts from a chute near Swinley Bottom, while mile races are also held over a straight course that extends beyond the head of the stretch. All races contested at seven furlongs or less are run over a straight course.

### WHAT TIME DO THE RACES START AND HOW MANY ARE THERE?

Post time each day is 9:30 a.m. (EDT) (2:30 p.m. local time). Seven races are held daily, and purses over the five-day meet will total a record  $\pm$ 9.52 million.

#### WHAT IS THE ROYAL PROCESSION?

Approximately 30-40 minutes before the first race each day, His Majesty King Charles III and the Royal party are driven down Ascot's one-mile straight in horse-drawn carriages to the cheers of those in attendance. The procession ends when The King disembarks from his carriage in the saddling ring.

#### **IS ROYAL ASCOT AN INTERNATIONAL EVENT?**

Technological innovations in communications and the continued ease in transport of horses have made Royal Ascot an increasingly global event. Enticed by its prestige and prize money, Royal Ascot has attracted leading Thoroughbreds from Australia, Japan, Hong Kong, Dubai, and the United States to compete against the very best from England, Ireland, and France.

Trainer Wesley Ward has been a trailblazer among American horsemen pointing for Royal Ascot, primarily with juvenile runners. He's trained a dozen Royal Ascot winners since 2009. The most prominent American-based horse to win a race at Royal Ascot was the two-time champion turf mare Tepin, who beat the boys in the 2016 Queen Anne (G1).

#### WHAT KIND OF RACES ARE HELD AT ROYAL ASCOT?

Of the 35 races, 22 are Group or Listed stakes. Eight of these 22 are Group 1s. The remainder are long-standing handicaps, most of which have been Royal Ascot features for decades. They tend to attract disproportionately large fields.

#### WHAT ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF DAY 1?

Arguably the classiest of the five racing days with three Group 1 events. The Queen Anne, for older milers, is always the first race of the meet. Three-year-old colt milers compete in the St James's Palace, while the King's Stand is a premier five-furlong sprint. The Coventry (G2) is traditionally the first stakes of the week for two-year-olds, while the Ascot Sakes (handicap) is one of the longer races of the meet at 2 1/2 miles.

#### WHAT ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF DAY 2?

The Prince of Wales's (G1), weight-for-age over 1 1/4 miles, is among the top two richest races held at Royal Ascot with a purse of £1 million. The Duke of Cambridge (G2) for filly-andmare milers, the Queen Mary (G2) for two-year-old fillies, and the Queen's Vase (G2) for three-year-old stayers are the other Group offerings. The Royal Hunt Cup (handicap) is a figurative stampede over the straight mile course.



#### WHAT ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF DAY 3?

The largest crowd of the week (Ladies Day) is in attendance for the centerpiece of every Royal Ascot meet, the famed Gold Cup (G1) over 2 1/2 miles. The Ribblesdale (G2) is an historic middledistance test for three-year-old fillies over 1 1/2 miles, while the Norfolk (G2) attracts some of the more precocious two-yearolds to dash five furlongs.

#### WHAT ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF DAY 4?

The Coronation (G1) for three-year-old fillies milers is the traditional highlight but now shares the day with the Commonwealth Cup (G1), a relatively new race for three-yearold sprinters run over six furlongs. The King Edward VII (G2), for three- year-olds over 1 1/2 miles, is colloquially known as the "Ascot Derby."

#### WHAT ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF DAY 5?

A fifth day of Royal Ascot was added in 2002. The most lucrative race is the £1 million Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee (G1), a six-furlong sprint renamed in honor of the late Queen, who passed away in September 2022. The 1 1/2-mile Hardwicke (G2) often attracts top-notch middle distance performers. Two-year-olds are featured in the Chesham Stakes, while the meet-closing Queen Alexandra Stakes (conditions) over 2 3/4 miles remains the longest race run under Flat racing rules.

#### ARE THERE ARE ANY BREEDERS' CUP CHALLENGE RACES AT ROYAL ASCOT?

The Queen Anne (Mile) and King's Stand (Turf Sprint) on Tuesday, the Prince of Wales's (Turf) on Wednesday, and the Norfolk (Juvenile Turf Sprint) on Thursday are all Breeders' Cup "Win & You're In" Challenge preps.

### WHERE CAN WE WATCH ROYAL ASCOT RACES AND WHAT BETS ARE OFFERED?

In addition to the daily coverage available on NBC's Peacock streaming service and Saturday on NBCSports.com (on Saturday), you can watch and wager on all 35 Royal Ascot races at TwinSpires.com. Win, Place (first three or four, depending on field size), Exacta, Trifecta, and Omni (pick two of the top three finishers in any order) wagering are available on virtually all races.

#### WHERE CAN WE FIND MORE ROYAL ASCOT INFORMATION AND PAST PERFORMANCES?

Check out the TwinSpires EDGE throughout Royal Ascot week for opinions and analysis.





### ROYAL ASCOT GROUP RACE HISTORIES by Kellie Reilly

### TUESDAY

#### **QUEEN ANNE (G1),** 4YO/UP, ONE MILE (STRAIGHT COURSE)

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2022	Baaeed	1st Lockinge
2021	Palace Pier	1st Lockinge
2020	Circus Maximus	Layoff since 4th BC Mile (US)
2019	Lord Glitters	13th Lockinge
2018	Accidental Agent	6th Lockinge
2017	Ribchester	1st Lockinge
2016	Tepin (f)	1st CD Distaff Turf Mile (US)
2015	Solow	1st Prix d'Ispahan
2014	Toronado	Layoff since August
2013	Declaration of War	5th Lockinge

#### KING'S STAND (G1), 3YO/UP, FIVE FURLONGS

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2022	Nature Strip	1st T J Smith (AUS)
2021	Oxted	3rd Duke of York
2020	Battaash	Layoff since October
2019	Blue Point	1st Al Quoz Sprint (UAE)
2018	Blue Point	9th Chairman's Sprint Prize (HK)
2017	Lady Aurelia (f)	1st Giant's Causeway (US)
2016	Profitable	1st Temple
2015	Goldream	7th Temple
2014	Sole Power	1st Palace House
2013	Sole Power	4th Temple

#### COVENTRY (G2), 2YO, SIX FURLONGS

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2022	Bradsell	1st York novice
2021	Berkshire Shadow	1st Newbury maiden
2020	Nando Parrado	5th Newmarket maiden
2019	Arizona	1st Curragh maiden
2018	Calyx	1st Newmarket novice
2017	Rajasinghe	1st Newcastle novice
2016	Caravaggio	1st Marble Hill
2015	Buratino	1st Woodcote
2014	The Wow Signal	1st Ayr maiden
2013	War Command	1st Leopardstown maiden

#### ST JAMES'S PALACE (G1), 3YO COLTS, ONE MILE (ROUND COURSE)

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2022	Coroebus	1st 2000 Guineas
2021	Poetic Flare	2nd Irish 2000 Guineas
2020	Palace Pier	1st Newcastle handicap
2019	Circus Maximus	6th Derby
2018	Without Parole	1st Heron
2017	Barney Roy	2nd 2000 Guineas
2016	Galileo Gold	2nd Irish 2000 Guineas
2015	Gleneagles	1st Irish 2000 Guineas
2014	Kingman	1st Irish 2000 Guineas
2013	Dawn Approach	12th Epsom Derby

DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE (G2). 4YO/UP, F&M, ONE MILE (STRAIGHT COURSE)

### WEDNESDAY

#### QUEEN MARY (G2), 2YO FILLIES, FIVE FURLONGS

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE	YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE		
2022	Dramatised	1st Newmarket maiden	2022	Saffron Beach	4th Dubai Turf (UA		
2021	Quick Suzy	2nd Naas Fillies Sprint	2021	Indie Angel	4th Dahlia		
2020	Campanelle	1st Gulfstream maiden (US)	2020	Nazeef	1st Snowdrop		
2019	Raffle Prize	1st Chester maiden	2019	Move Swiftly	Layoff since Nover		
2018	Signora Cabello	1st Marygate	2018	Aljazzi	3rd Sandown Mile		
2017	Heartache	1st Bath novice	2017	Qemah	2nd Chartwell Fillie		
2016	Lady Aurelia	1st Keeneland maiden (US)	2016	Usherette	1st Dahlia		
2015	Acapulco	3rd Churchill maiden (US)	2015	Amazing Maria	3rd Lanwades		
2014	Anthem Alexander	1st Tipperary maiden	2014	Integral	2nd Dahlia		
2013	Rizeena	1st National	2013	Duntle	1st Amethyst		



#### PRINCE OF WALES'S (G1), 4YO/UP, 1 1/4 MILES

#### QUEEN'S VASE (G2), 3YO, 1 3/4 MILES (2 MILES PRIOR TO 2017)

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE	YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2022	State of Rest	3rd Tattersalls Gold Cup	2022	Eldar Eldarov	1st Newcastle novice
2021	Love	Layoff since August	2021	Kemari	1st Yarmouth maiden
2020	Lord North	1st Brigadier Gerard	2020	Santiago	Layoff since September
2019	Crystal Ocean	1st Al Rayyan/Aston Park	2019	Dashing Willoughby	3rd Chester Vase
2018	Poet's Word	1st Brigadier Gerard	2018	Kew Gardens	9th Derby
2017	Highland Reel	1st Coronation Cup	2017	Stradivarius	2nd Chester handicap
2016	My Dream Boat	5th Prix d'Ispahan	2016	Sword Fighter	3rd Naas race
2015	Free Eagle	Layoff since October	2015	Aloft	Layoff since October
2014	The Fugue (f)	11th Dubai Duty Free (UAE)	2014	Hartnell	2nd Lingfield Derby Trial
2013	Al Kazeem	1st Tattersalls Gold Cup	2013	Leading Light	1st Gallinule



RIBBLESDALE (G2), 3YO FILLIES, 1 1/2 MILES

### THURSDAY

#### NORFOLK (G2), 2YO, FIVE FURLONGS

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE	YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2022	The Ridler (50-1)	3rd Two-Yr-Old Trophy	2012	Magical Lagoon	2nd Salsabil
2021	Perfect Power	1st Hamilton maiden	2021	Loving Dream	5th Lingfield Oaks Tria
2020	The Lir Jet	1st Yarmouth novice	2020	Frankly Darling	1st Newcastle maiden
2019	A'Ali	2nd Ripon novice	2019	Star Catcher	3rd Bouquetot Trial
2018	Shang Shang Shang (f)	1st Keeneland maiden (US)	2018	Magic Wand	4th Oaks
2017	Sioux Nation	6th Marble Hill	2017	Coronet	5th Oaks
2016	Prince of Lir	1st Brian Yeardley	2016	Even Song	3rd Pretty Polly
2015	Waterloo Bridge	1st Tipperary maiden	2015	Curvy	1st Gallinule
2014	Baitha Alga	1st Woodcote	2014	Bracelet	14th 1000 Guineas
2013	No Nay Never	1st Keeneland maiden (US)	2013	Riposte	1st Newmarket maide

#### GOLD CUP (G1), 4YO/UP, 2 1/2 MILES

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
TEAK	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2022	Kyprios	1st Saval Beg
2021	Subjectivist	1st Dubai Gold Cup
2020	Stradivarius	3rd Coronation Cup
2019	Stradivarius	1st Yorkshire Cup
2018	Stradivarius	1st Yorkshire Cup
2017	Big Orange	1st Henry II
2016	Order of St George	1st Saval Beg
2015	Trip to Paris	2nd Henry II
2014	Leading Light	1st Vintage Crop
2013	Estimate (f)	1st Sagaro

#### HAMPTON COURT (G3), 3YO, 1 1/4 MILES

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2022	Claymore	15th French 2000 Guineas
2021	Mohaafeth	1st Newmarket S.
2020	Russian Emperor	2nd Derrinstown Stud
2019	Sangarius	3rd Heron
2018	Hunting Horn	6th French Derby
2017	Benbatl	5th Derby
2016	Hawkbill	1st Newmarket S.
2015	Time Test 1st London Gold Cup (h'	
2014	Cannock Chase 1st London Gold Cup (h'ca	
2013	Remote	1st Doncaster handicap



### FRIDAY

#### ALBANY (G3), 2YO FILLIES, SIX FURLONGS

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2022	Meditate	1st Naas Fillies' Sprint
2021	Sandrine	1st Kempton novice
2020	Dandalla	1st Newcastle maiden
2019	Daahyeh	1st Newmarket novice
2018	Main Edition	1st Goodwood novice
2017	Different League	1st Angers conditions
2016	Brave Anna	1st Curragh maiden
2015	Illuminate	1st Salisbury conditions
2014	Cursory Glance	1st Kempton maiden
2013	Kiyoshi	1st Goodwood maiden

#### COMMONWEALTH CUP (G1), 3YO, SIX FURLONGS

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE	
2022	Perfect Power	7th 2000 Guineas	
2021	Campanelle	Layoff since 4th BC Juv Fillies Turf (US)	
2020	Golden Horde	Layoff since September	
2019	Advertise	15th 2000 Guineas	
2018	Eqtidaar	4th Carnarvon	
2017	Caravaggio	1st Lacken	
2016	Quiet Reflection (f)	1st Sandy Lane	
2015	Muhaarar	8th French 2000 Guineas	

#### **CORONATION (G1),** 3YO FILLIES, ONE MILE (ROUND COURSE)

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2022	Inspiral	Layoff since October
2021	Alcohol Free	5th 1000 Guineas
2020	Alpine Star	Layoff since August
2019	Watch Me	6th French 1000 Guineas
2018	Alpha Centauri 1st Irish 1000 Guinea	
2017	Winter	1st Irish 1000 Guineas
2016	Qemah	3rd French 1000 Guineas
2015	Ervedya	1st French 1000 Guineas
2014	Rizeena	7th 1000 Guineas
2013	Sky Lantern	1st 1000 Guineas

#### KING EDWARD VII (G2), 3YO COLTS & GELDINGS, 1 1/2 MILES

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE	
2022	Changingoftheguard 5th Epsom Derby		
2021	Alenquer	1st Sandown Classic Trial	
2020	Pyledriver	2nd Classic Trial	
2019	Japan	3rd Derby	
2018	Old Persian	1st Fairway	
2017	Permian	10th Derby	
2016	Across the Stars	10th Derby	
2015	Balios	2nd Newmarket S.	
2014	Eagle Top 4th Leicester handicap		
2013	Hillstar	2nd London Gold Cup (h'cap)	

### SATURDAY

#### JERSEY (G3), 3YO, SEVEN FURLONGS

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2022	Noble Truth	1st King Charles II
2021	Creative Force	1st Carnarvon S.
2020	Molatham	Layoff since October
2019	Space Traveller	7th Tourisme de Maisons-Laffitte
2018	Expert Eye	10th 2000 Guineas
2017	Le Brivido	2nd French 2000 Guineas
2016	Ribchester	3rd 2000 Guineas
2015	Dutch Connection	7th 2000 Guineas
2014	Mustajeeb	3rd Irish 2000 Guineas
2013	Gale Force Ten	2nd Irish 2000 Guineas

#### HARDWICKE (G2), 4YO/UP, 1 1/2 MILES

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE	
2022	Broome	5th Tattersalls Gold Cup	
2021	Wonderful Tonight (f)	Layoff since October	
2020	Fanny Logan (f)	2nd Pinnacle	
2019	Defoe	1st Coronation Cup	
2018	Crystal Ocean	1st Al Rayyan/Aston Park	
2017	Idaho 6th Coronation Cup		
2016	Dartmouth	1st Ormonde	
2015	Snow Sky	1st Yorkshire Cup	
2014	Telescope	2nd Huxley	
2013	Thomas Chippendale	2nd Buckhounds	

#### QUEEN ELIZABETH II JUBILEE (G1), 4YO/UP, SIX FURLONGS

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE	
2022	Naval Crown	4th Al Quoz Sprint (UAE)	
2021	Dream of Dreams	1st Leisure S.	
2020	Hello Youmzain	Layoff since October	
2019	Blue Point	1st King's Stand	
2018	Merchant Navy	1st Greenlands	
2017	The Tin Man	5th Duke of York	
2016	Twilight Son	5th Duke of York	
2015	Undrafted	2nd TwinSpires Turf Sprint (U	
2014	Slade Power	1st Greenlands	
2013	Lethal Force	2nd Duke of York	



### HOW TO HANDICAP ROYAL ASCOT STAKES FOR JUVENILES by Vance Hanson

One of the distinguishing features of Royal Ascot is the six stakes devoted to two-year-olds during the annual five-day meeting. Ranging in distance from five to seven furlongs, these races typically attract fields of more than a dozen and often approach 20.

To American bettors generally unfamiliar with English racing, and increasingly used to not having to sift through large fields, attempting to find a winner among a group of green, inexperienced runners being asked to careen down the long Ascot straight sounds like a virtually impossible task.

#### Let me argue otherwise.

Having provided daily selections for Days 3 and 4 at Royal Ascot since 2011, first at Brisnet.com and now on TwinSpires.com, I've had an opportunity to hone skills for this handicapping puzzle. Two races I proffer an opinion on every year are the Norfolk (G2), a five-furlong event on Day 3 (Thursday), and the sixfurlong Albany (G3) for fillies on Day 4 (Friday). I have publicly endorsed the following winners of the Norfolk and Albany over the past 12 years:

Year Horse		<b>Closing UK Odds</b>	
2019	A'Ali	5-1	
2020	The Lir Jet	9-2	
2021	Perfect Power	14-1	

Year	Horse	<b>Closing UK Odds</b>	
2011	Samitar	16-1	
2012	Newfangled	7-4	
2013	Kiyoshi	10-1	
2015	Illuminate	4-1	
2019	Daahyeh	4-1	

My approach to handicapping these juvenile features generally involves a three-step process:

#### **1. CHECKING BRISNET.COM PEDIGREE REPORTS**

Once the final fields are announced 48 hours out, I immediately run Brisnet.com's Catalog page product (#750) and other reports to get an overview of the family history of the runners involved. In particular, I note horses whose sires and/or dams were precocious enough to earn black type in short races like these early in the season. A winning family history over the Ascot course itself is a plus. I also take note of any horses who might be closely related to others that share these qualities.



#### **2. VIDEO WORK**

Whether using TwinSpires.com's library for full race coverage or condensed footage uploaded to social media services like Twitter, watching replays is essential. For myself, I don't generally need to watch full races. Re-watching the final two or three furlongs of a past race is enough for me to judge whether something about the horse "catches the eye" or not.

Admittedly, this is the most subjective part of the process. It's hard to put into words what I look for or what impresses me, but I know it when I see it. It's basically judging how the horse moves and whether he or she shows enough signs of relative maturity for its age to potentially handle the task at hand. I'll make a mental or short note whether a past victory impresses the eye enough, or whether a troubled trip might have cost the horse a better placing.

#### **3. CONSULT THE RATINGS**

There are several prominent ratings services in Britain that provide opinions on the quality of past races for not only juveniles but for all horses running in the major countries of Europe. While these and their accompanying analyses won't make me reconsider horses I've decided to eliminate after steps 1 and 2, they often help determine my final selection when the choice is down to a handful of prospects or fewer. Unlike speed figures generally, higher ratings don't necessarily mean the horses are faster or the right play.

There are, of course, other minor factors to consider. For example, surface condition is somewhat intertwined with pedigree and past performance, while past trainer success in the race you're handicapping is always something to keep in mind. However, the three main steps above take precedence over these.



### LADY AURELIA'S SON AMERICAN RASCAL TOPS WARD'S HOPES by Kellie Reilly

Trainer Wesley Ward makes his annual raid on Royal Ascot with a four-strong team that includes American Rascal (the first foal of a past superstar of this meeting, Lady Aurelia) and Twilight Gleaming. But there are U.S. shippers from other barns as well, including juveniles for Tom Morley and George Weaver along with veteran Classic Causeway for Ken McPeek. Late Thursday afternoon, Daily Racing Form's Marcus Hersh reported that Big Invasion plans to wheel back from the Jaipur (G1) for the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee (G1).

Let's look at the two-year-olds before wrapping up with the elders.

### AMERICAN RASCAL, NO NAY METS IN THURSDAY'S NORFOLK (G2)

A "Win and You're In" for the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint (G1), Thursday's Norfolk (G2) is the target for American Rascal, who was a sensational debut winner April 20 at Keeneland. Indeed, the Stonestreet Stables homebred sparked comparisons with Lady Aurelia's similarly jaw-dropping premiere at the same track and same 4 1/2-furlong trip in 2016.

Unlike the front-running performance by his dam, American Rascal stalked and pounced, rapidly widening his margin from two lengths in mid-stretch to 10 1/4 lengths at the wire. The clock backed up the visual impression, as American Rascal blasted home in :51.21, the fastest time of the meet at the distance and worth a robust 95 Brisnet Speed rating.

That was on dirt, of course, the preferred surface of American Rascal's sire, Curlin. But the exciting colt's turf works have filled Ward with confidence that he's inherited Lady Aurelia's aptitude for grass. Lady Aurelia herself graduated from her Keeneland triumph to dominate Royal Ascot's Queen Mary (G2), and then returned to this historic venue in 2017 to beat older males in the King's Stand (G1).

"I wanted him to work nice and relaxed," Ward told Keeneland publicity after his May 26 breeze in :50, in company with Royal Ascotbound stablemate Fandom (:49.60). "Today was an ultra-impressive workout."

Fandom arguably looked better in the video, but Ward emphasizes that there is a lot more up American Rascal's sleeve (more on that in the Fandom section below). American Rascal has since posted two additional half-mile moves over the good Keeneland course: a bullet in :49 on June 2 followed by a June 9 breeze in :49.20.

Ward counts two Norfolk wins among his overall tally of 12 at Royal Ascot. Interestingly, Joel Rosario has been aboard both – No Nay Never (2013) and Shang Shang Shang (2018) – and he once again teams up with American Rascal in the five-furlong dash.

No Nay Never is the sire of the George Weaver-trained No Nay Mets, who punched his ticket in the May 13 Royal Palm Juvenile at Gulfstream Park. Owned by the Houston Astros' Alex Bregman, the



colt is entered in Monday's Goffs London Sale, so he could well be sporting a new jersey, so to speak, in the Norfolk.

No Nay Mets was bred by Coolmore in Ireland and purchased for €180,000 as a yearling at Arqana August. The son of Group 3-winning blueblood Etoile was re-offered at OBS in April but failed to sell at a top bid of \$335,000.

Although it was a tight turnaround from the sale to join Weaver and make his career debut in the Royal Palm Juvenile, No Nay Mets handled the challenge. The 10.80-1 chance flashed speed and kicked 3 1/2 lengths clear while finishing five furlongs in :57.09.

Frankie Dettori picks up the Norfolk mount on No Nay Mets. The colt signaled his well-being by firing a June 2 bullet over the Oklahoma training turf at Saratoga, covering a half-mile in :48.28 on a firm course – the exact same time as his Queen Mary-bound stablemate Crimson Advocate.

"Luckily, we have Frankie Dettori riding him and, if anybody knows how to ride the course, it is definitely him," Weaver's assistant Blair Golen told Ascot publicity. "So I think that is to our advantage. It means everything to have him riding and, if that makes Wesley Ward jealous, then even better!"

### FANDOM HAS COVENTRY (G2) OR WINDSOR CASTLE OPTION

Representing the same connections as the more ballyhooed American Rascal, Fandom is flying in a bit under the radar. But the sparring partner has credentials as a dominant debut winner on the Keeneland turf.

Ward said something interesting regarding Fandom vis-à-vis American Rascal in the June 12 Breeders' Cup "Future Stars Forecast" interview with Ren Carothers.



"It'd be hard to separate the two in workouts if you weren't talking to Julio," Ward told Carothers, explaining how exercise rider Julio Garcia raves about the latent power of American Rascal.

British-bred Fandom is the latest noteworthy Stonestreet acquisition from a European yearling sale, scouted by advisor Ben McElroy for about \$196,000 at Tattersalls last October. By the successful sire Showcasing, Fandom is out of a half-sister to a couple of very smart juvenile fillies – 2022 Cheveley Park (G1) heroine Lezoo and Navassa Island, who just missed in a Group 3 on debut at Naas. Both are expected to run at Royal Ascot Friday, the now-sophomore Lezoo taking on males in the Commonwealth Cup (G1) and Navassa Island in the Albany (G3).

With that background, Fandom logically debuted on turf at Keeneland and bolted up by 6 3/4 lengths. Irad Ortiz Jr., who will maintain the partnership at Royal Ascot, hand-rode the colt through 5 1/2 furlongs in 1:03.21. Fandom quickened his last sixteenth in :5.94 under no more than a nudge.

At this writing, Fandom has been cross-entered to Tuesday's Coventry (G2) and Wednesday's Windsor Castle S. Ward has yet to win the sixfurlong Coventry, the most prestigious event for Royal Ascot juveniles that attracts the top prospects from all the big outfits. But he has won the five-furlong Windsor Castle twice, and that would be the higherpercentage play.

If Fandom lines up in the Windsor Castle, he could meet former stablemate Bledsoe. Bred by Ward, Bledsoe won on debut at Keeneland for his owner/trainer, who then sold him to Ollie Sangster. Bledsoe didn't scream star quality when registering a 77 Brisnet Speed rating; additionally, he's by the obscure Medaglia d'Oro stallion Iqbaal. His best talking point is his dam, Grade 2-winning turf sprinter Shrinking Violet, but he'll be an outsider for his new British yard.

#### BUNDCHEN, CRIMSON ADVOCATE, CYNANE IN WEDNESDAY'S QUEEN MARY (G2)

Ward has had his greatest success in the Queen Mary, the Norfolk's counterpart for fillies, with a total of four winners.

Bundchen is his current hope for the five-furlong scramble, a filly with a profile vaguely reminiscent of his 2015 Queen Mary victress, Acapulco. The parallel isn't exact, but both were beaten as odds-on favorites in their dirt debuts, and thrived on the surface switch at Royal Ascot.

The \$700,000 sales topper at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October Yearlings Sale, the Gun Runner filly is out of a full sister to 2015 Belmont Derby (G1) upsetter Force the Pass. Ward intended to start her out on turf, only to have her April 28 maiden transferred to the Keeneland dirt. Bundchen zipped to the lead but got nipped at the wire.

Bundchen's behavior in her turf work on May 26, in company with Grade 2 hero Arrest Me Red, was uncharacteristic. Ward told Carothers that they discovered the reason: her girth had been tightened up far too much. Bundchen has bounced back from that mishap with a couple of stronger moves, polishing off her home preparation with a half-mile bullet in :48.40 around the dogs June 9. Rosario has the return call for the Queen Mary.

Weaver's Crimson Advocate has already improved from dirt to turf, earning her way here by taking the Royal Palm Juvenile Fillies. Third in her Keeneland unveiling, the \$100,000 daughter of Nyquist added blinkers while changing surfaces at Gulfstream, and the effect was dramatic.



Crimson Advocate scampered to the lead and simply had too much speed for Ward's odds-on Ocean Mermaid. Faster than Norfolkbound stablemate No Nay Mets was in his version of the Royal Palm, Crimson Advocate crossed the wire in :56.25.

As mentioned above, Crimson Advocate blitzed a half-mile in :48.28, tying No Nay Mets for the June 2 bullet over Saratoga's Oklahoma training turf. Hall of Famer John Velazquez takes over the reins on Crimson Advocate, whose dam, Grade 3-placed multiple stakes winner Citizen Advocate, is from the immediate family of champion two-year-old filly Caledonia Road and Wood Memorial (G2) scorer Lord Miles.



British expat Morley is delighted to have a contender in Cynane, who was pegged as a potential Queen Mary type a long while back – as a yearling! Oracle Bloodstock helped source the filly, from the first crop of highly-regarded freshman sire Omaha Beach, for \$250,000 at Keeneland September.

"This filly reminds me enormously, physically, of the fillies that Jeremy (Noseda) used to be so successful at buying in America and bringing back to Europe to have a crack at these races," Morley told Thoroughbred Daily News on May 15.

"This is the model that Jeremy used to buy, so I will have to credit my ex-boss for giving me the idea on what to look for physically on a Queen Mary type."

Cynane wasted no time in substantiating that idea first time out on May 11 at Belmont Park. Readily taking control early in the fivefurlong maiden, she cruised home in :57.61 to become the first winner for Omaha Beach.

Out of an Arch mare from the terrific family of turf star Point of Entry, among others, Cynane has the pedigree to be more than a precocious juvenile.

### TWILIGHT GLEAMING GOES IN TUESDAY'S KING'S STAND (G1)

Runner-up as the favorite in the 2021 Queen Mary, Twilight Gleaming returns at a much bigger price in the King's Stand over the same five-furlong trip.

The Stonestreet colorbearer, who scored her biggest victory in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint at Del Mar, did not attempt Royal Ascot during a relatively quieter sophomore campaign. Although she won two more stakes in 2022, the Mamzelle S. at Churchill Downs and the Daisycutter H. at Del Mar, Twilight Gleaming was all out to hang on at the end of five furlongs. When she stepped up to 5 1/2 furlongs for last fall's Franklin (G3) at Keeneland, it wasn't a surprise that she tired to fourth behind next-out Breeders' Cup star Caravel.

But the four-year-old Twilight Gleaming could have greater capacity, as evidenced by her comeback in the April 15 Giant's Causeway S. back at Keeneland. A more tactical dimension allowed her to save more energy for the stretch, and she drove to a 1 1/2-length decision. Twilight Gleaming saw out the 5 1/2 furlongs well, clocking a stakes-record 1:01.74.

Even so, Twilight Gleaming will need to up her game in the King's Stand, between the stiffer course at Ascot and the depth of the competition. Ward's past winner of this race, the aforementioned Lady Aurelia, had won the Queen Mary that eluded Twilight Gleaming.

#### CLASSIC CAUSEWAY SWINGS FOR THE FENCES IN PRINCE OF WALES'S (G1)

McPeek hasn't been as familiar a presence at Royal Ascot, but two of his four runners have placed. In 2010, his juveniles Tiz My Time and Casper's Touch finished third in their events, and Noble's Promise was a respectable fifth in the St James's Palace (G1). His last runner, Rosalind, unseated the rider in the 2014 Coronation (G1).

McPeek's most famous sortie at this track, however, was not at the Royal meeting, but the 2004 King George VI & Queen Elizabeth (G1). His Brazilian import Hard Buck, overlooked at 33-1, finished a commendable second to Godolphin's favored Doyen.

Even in view of his trainer's history, Classic Causeway looks up against it in a field of proper heavyweights on Wednesday. Hard Buck at least had held his own on the international stage before, with a runner-up effort in the 2004 Dubai Sheema Classic (G1) on World Cup night.



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Classic Causeway's claim to turf fame is his wire job in last summer's Belmont Derby. The 26-1 shot used his tactical speed to surprise respective Godolphin and Ballydoyle hotpots Nations Pride and Stone Age, but his ensuing efforts haven't caught the imagination.

Perhaps if Classic Causeway had been more aggressive early in the June 3 Arlington (G3) at Churchill, he could have run better than fourth. Still, that's some way below the standard required here.

Although the son of "Iron Horse" Giant's Causeway could try to duplicate his Belmont heroics on the front end, his Prince of Wales's rivals are much tougher. He's squaring off against Aidan O'Brien's vaunted Luxembourg, Godolphin's 2021 Epsom Derby (G1) winner Adayar, Sir Michael Stoute's Bay Bridge, the touted My Prospero from the William Haggas yard, and Shadwell dark horse Mostahdaf in what could be the race of the meeting.

#### **BIG INVASION FOR SATURDAY'S QEII JUBILEE**

As if the closing-day feature weren't cosmopolitan enough, with a pair from Australia and one from Hong Kong, Big Invasion is apparently on course to add American flavor to the six-furlong dash now named the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee on Saturday.

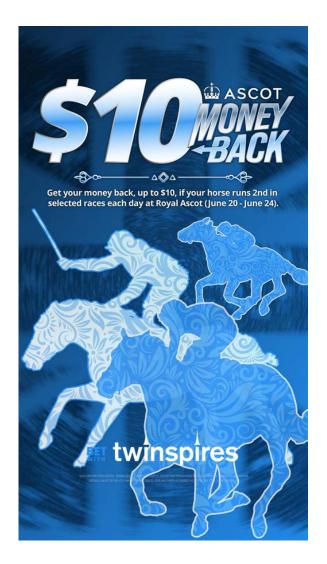
The Christophe Clement trainee just raced in the Jaipur (G1) on Belmont Day, where he delivered his customary late charge from well back, if too late to catch Caravel. Big Invasion came up just threequarters of a length shy of the reigning Turf Sprint queen. But his kick was potent enough to overhaul two-time defending champ Casa Creed.

Between Caravel, who toppled an international cast at Keeneland last fall, and Casa Creed, the near-misser in two straight editions of the 1351 Turf Sprint (G3) on Saudi Cup Day, Big Invasion can claim some fine collateral form.

A son of multiple highweight Declaration of War, a 7-1 winner of the 2013 Queen Anne (G1) here for Aidan O'Brien, Big Invasion appeared to be the next big thing in this division stateside in 2022. He rattled off a six-race winning streak, admittedly versus fellow three-year-olds, before winding up a distant third in the Franklin-Simpson (G2) at Kentucky Downs. That smacked of a bridge too far, especially since Clement had sounded inclined to freshen him up after Saratoga rather than press on. He reportedly exited his Kentucky Downs loss with an injury.

Will Big Invasion be able to fire his best shot on a two-week turnaround from Belmont to Royal Ascot? His first three starts of 2023 were all well spaced. After a score in the March 18 Silks Run S. at Gulfstream Park, he was a troubled seventh in the May 6 TwinSpires Turf Sprint (G2) on Kentucky Derby Day, and then came a more representative effort in the Jaipur.

Big Invasion's running style suggests that he would like a straightaway to gain steam, if he can summon a career-best on this timetable.



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### AUSTRALIANS COOLANGATTA, CANNONBALL AIM FOR KING'S STAND by Kellie Reilly



One year after Australian speedster Nature Strip ran his rivals ragged at Royal Ascot, four of his compatriots will fly the flag at the premier meeting.

Coolangatta and Cannonball seek to follow up in the same fivefurlong dash Nature Strip dominated, the King's Stand (G1), on the June 20 opener.

Artorius is back for another tilt at the six-furlong prize rebranded as the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee (G1), where he was a barnstorming third (in a dead-heat) a year ago. The Jubilee is also attracting fellow Aussie The Astrologist along with Hong Kong's hitherto champion Wellington (to be profiled separately).

Nature Strip's jockey, James McDonald, will be astride Coolangatta in the King's Stand and Artorius in the Jubilee. Brett Prebble renews his successful partnership with Cannonball, and Damian Lane gets reacquainted with The Astrologist.

Let's look at the King's Stand duo here, followed by the Jubilee contenders in another post.

#### COOLANGATTA AND CANNONBALL ARE STILL REALLY 3YOS

Although Coolangatta brings the flashier credentials as a two-time Group 1 winner, Cannonball has a stealthy look as a colt on the upswing. Indeed, Cannonball has form with star Australian sprinter Giga Kick. Both Coolangatta and Cannonball are still physically three-year-olds on Southern Hemisphere time, but treated as four-year-olds at the weights here. That especially gives pause for Coolangatta as a filly, who will be toting a lot more than she did at home — 130 pounds.

Coolangatta carries the same weight as the British-based favorite, six-year-old mare Highfield Princess, and receives only a three-pound concession from the older males. Moreover, Coolangatta is giving weight to the Northern Hemisphere sophomores, most notably six pounds to the brilliant filly Dramatised.

Both represent the same immediate sire line. Coolangatta is by the outstanding stallion Written Tycoon, who is also responsible for Cannonball's sire, Capitalist, hero of the rich Golden Slipper (G1) in 2016.

#### **COOLANGATTA WON THE KEY LIGHTNING S. (G1)**

In light of Coolangatta's exploits, her dam, Piping Hot, just sold for A\$3 million to Coolmore. Piping Hot, by More Than Ready, is herself a half-sister to 2008 Blue Diamond (G1) winner Reaan.

From the yard of Ciaron Maher and David Eustace, who've clinched the Melbourne training title for the 2022-23 season, Coolangatta has raced exclusively in stakes, even starting off in Group 3 company. She was a high-class two-year-old, as evidenced by her favoritism in the Golden Slipper, where she sustained her first loss in third.

Coolangatta tackled older sprinters when resuming as a threeyear-old in the Australian spring. After a pace-attending third in the McEwen (G2), she moved forward to beat elders in the Moir (G1) over the same turning track at Moonee Valley. The 11-2 Coolangatta leveraged her early speed on the rail, and light weight, to hold on from her 18-1 stablemate Bella Nipotina by a diminishing head. Bella Nipotina came back to romp in the Manikato (G1), from which Coolangatta was a late scratch due to the heavy going.

Judging by how Coolangatta just lasted going about five furlongs around a bend, she didn't necessarily look like wanting an extra furlong down a straight. That's what she attempted, however, in the about six-furlong Coolmore Stud (G1) Oct. 29 at Flemington. A 9-1 chance back among fellow sophomores, Coolangatta traveled well and launched a bid, only to be swamped and relegated to fifth behind favored In Secret. Perhaps the soft going exacerbated any stamina concern, although she won the Moir on a course nearly as soft.

The convincing winner of the Coolmore Stud, Godolphin's In Secret was at one time under Royal Ascot consideration herself. Connections preferred to keep her home, as the best route to The Everest later this year.

Coolangatta reverted to about five furlongs for her comeback in the Feb. 18 Lightning (G1). The 8-1 shot established her straight-course



prowess by toppling elders, including an off-form Nature Strip, in the prestigious dash. Readily stalking Nature Strip, Coolangatta struck the front and held on from the surging I Wish I Win by a half-length.

I Wish I Win ran a stormer first-up over an inadequate trip, spotting the winner lumps of weight. He would later beat Giga Kick in the T.J. Smith (G1) during The Championships.

The Lightning has furnished all of Australia's Royal Ascot winners. Choisir (2003) won the Lightning en route to his King's Stand/Jubilee double. Lightning winners Takeover Target (2006), Miss Andretti (2007), and Scenic Blast (2009) prevailed in the King's Stand. The great Black Caviar captured one of her three Lightning trophies ahead of the Jubilee. Nature Strip is the outlier in that he had won the Lightning the year prior, and rated an unlucky near-misser in 2022 before venturing to Royal Ascot.

But the stiffer five furlongs at Ascot, combined with her impost, make it challenging for Coolangatta to add to the honor roll. She carried a mere 110 pounds in the Moir and 118 in the Lightning, receiving 15 and 11 pounds from the respective runners-up. Can she deliver under 130?CANNONBALL IS ON AN UPWARD TRAJECTORY

Cannonball, an A\$975,000 yearling, is aiming to make himself a stallion. (If you're feeling a sense of déjà vu with the name, you're thinking of the Wesley Ward-trained Cannonball who just missed in the 2009 Jubilee.)

This Australian-bred Cannonball is a full brother to Marine One, winner of the about 5 1/2-furlong Rubiton (G2) at Caulfield in 2022. They are out of the Snitzel mare Golconda, third in the 2014 VRC Oaks (G1) and herself the daughter of Group 2 queen Eureka Jewel, runner-up in the 1996 AJC Oaks (G1).

Beginning his career with Anthony and Sam Freedman (trainers of Artorius), Cannonball showed some potential in his juvenile season, capped by a score in the listed Redoute's Choice S. at Caulfield. He went winless in his spring campaign at three, but the eye-catcher was his third as a 30-1 shot in the Oct. 1 Danehill (G2).

As an about 5 1/2-furlong sprint on the Flemington straightaway, the Danehill is close to the conditions of the King's Stand, especially if he gets good ground. Cannonball was strung up in traffic and didn't see daylight until far too late. Still, he went down by a shade over 1 1/2 lengths to Giga Kick, who has since won The Everest, All Aged (G1), and Doomben 10,000 (G1).

Cannonball was subsequently switched to Peter and Paul Snowden, who had trained his sire, Capitalist. He scored first off the bench for his new yard in the March 11 Maurice McCarten H. (G3) at Rosehill, showing good speed to wire his elders at 10-1.

Up in class for the March 18 Galaxy (G1) over the same right-handed course, Cannonball was a 17-1 shot as the lone sophomore. He outperformed his odds in third, stuck waiting for room on the rail before bravely threading the needle.



Cannonball will need a career-best to threaten in the King's Stand, but it's plausible to project that he can produce more than he's shown so far. If he's a straight-course aficionado who prefers quicker going, he's spent almost all his time in less than ideal conditions. The one time both prerequisites were met was his placing to Giga Kick.

#### **POSTSCRIPT ON MAY 29 AUSTRALIAN EXERCISE**

Coolangatta and Cannonball, along with Jubilee-bound Artorius, took part in the same 900-meter exercise down the Flemington straight before shipping out.

In the five-horse spin on May 29, Cannonball finished a cozy second on the bridle. Coolangatta (number 3 on the rail) was third, initially thought underwhelming by connections before the data gave reassurance. Artorius was the trailer of the quintet, as expected for a horse of his profile.

Co-trainer Maher sounded slightly let down by Coolangatta's effort right afterward. But colleague Eustace later furnished a much more upbeat rethink. Compared to the corresponding exercise by the Australian team before Royal Ascot 2022, this leg-stretcher produced a faster time in softer going.

McDonald echoed the same theme about the time in the conditions.

"The trial was no guide. They went way too fast," Coolangatta's bigrace jockey told racenet.com.au. "They ran something like seven lengths faster than Nature Strip did last year before he traveled to England, and that was on a good (4), and in Coolangatta and Artorius's trial the track was a soft (7) to a heavy (8)."



### AUSTRALIANS ARTORIUS, THE ASTROLOGIST SET FOR ROYAL ASCOT'S 2023 JUBILEE by Kellie Reilly

We continue our look at the Australian team for Royal Ascot with the two contenders for the June 24 Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee (G1), Artorius and The Astrologist, who are joined by Hong Kong's classy sprinter Wellington (to be profiled separately).

#### **OLDER, WISER ARTORIUS RETURNS FOR LAST HURRAH**

Set to retire to stud in Australia after the Jubilee, Artorius has two reasons to improve upon his dead-heat third-place effort from last year: physical maturity and slightly better race positioning. He's truly an older horse now, no longer at a disadvantage as a Southern Hemisphere three-year-old as he was at Royal Ascot 2022. He's also not leaving himself quite as much to do.



Watch how close the immature Artorius came to Jubilee glory, from the rear of the far side group (red and yellow silks), probing for a seam, and knifing through. He shared third with Wesley Ward's excellent filly Campanelle, just off the Godolphin pair of Naval Crown and Creative Force (the future third in the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint [G1]).

By the Artie Schiller stallion Flying Artie, and out of a Redoute's Choice half-sister to Group 1-winning sprinter Delectation, Artorius has won only three of 16 starts. But the Anthony and Sam Freedman trainee has been routinely competing at the top level since his juvenile days, when first-time blinkers galvanized him to win the 2021 Blue Diamond (G1).

Artorius kept running consistently well in defeat throughout his sophomore season. Third to Godolphin celebrity Anamoe in the Caulfield Guineas (G1) over a metric mile, and on the cutback to sprinting in the Coolmore Stud (G1), Artorius was a creditable sixth of 17 in the 2022 Newmarket H. (G1) before jetting off to Great Britain. He followed up his Jubilee third with another bronze medal in the July Cup (G1), then concluded his European stint with a hard-pulling sixth in the Prix Maurice de Gheest (G1) at Deauville.

Returning from a nearly seven-month layoff in the March 4 Canterbury (G1) at Randwick, Artorius snapped his losing streak. The closer threaded through traffic and flew in time to mug New Zealand darling Imperatriz. An equipment change from blinkers to visor might have played a role.

Imperatriz franked the form next time in the William Reid (G1) at Moonee Valley, beating Coolangatta's old rival Bella Nipotina. Artorius stepped up in distance for the George Ryder (G1) at Rosehill, where he rallied for fourth to Anamoe (who was racking up Group 1 win number nine). Settled midpack on the inside, Artorius kicked into gear late and went down by about three-quarters of a length.

#### THE ASTROLOGIST WILL GET HIS CONDITIONS

The most exposed of the Australian brigade with 38 starts, The Astrologist has also been a notch below the top-tier at home. But the Zoustar gelding is at his best going about six furlongs on a straightaway, as evidenced by his near-miss in the Al Quoz Sprint (G1) on the Dubai World Cup card.

It's also a plus that Damian Lane, who rode him in Dubai, will be back aboard. The tactical maestro is having success in Japan, recently steering Tastiera to a mild upset of the Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby) (G1).

Since joining Leon and Troy Corstens ahead of his four-year-old campaign, The Astrologist has developed into a familiar competitor in the sprint division. His biggest wins have come in Group 3s, the 2021 Aurie's Star (G3) in his optimal conditions at Flemington, and the about seven-furlong Gold Rush (G3) around a turn at Ascot (in Perth) last December.

Yet The Astrologist usually finds the Group 1 level just beyond his grasp. Until the Al Quoz, the closest he'd come was a half-length second in the 2022 Newmarket, as a 60-1 shot denied by the 100-1 Roch 'N' Horse. The wild result occurred with the longshots thriving on the far side as the fancies were in the other, near-side group.

In his next seven Australian Group 1 races, The Astrologist's best result was a one-paced third in the 2022 Goodwood (G1) at Morphettville. But his best performance, given the depth of the field, was his sixth in the frenetic finish of the Nov. 5 Champions Sprint (G1). Again raising his game at Flemington, The Astrologist was beaten a grand total of a length by Roch 'N' Horse, with odds-on Nature Strip second, Giga Kick a belated fifth, and Artorius sixth in the cavalry charge.

By comparison, the Al Quoz wasn't an all-star affair. The Astrologist, always in the vanguard, was just nipped by another longshot, locallybased Danyah, who paid \$139.40 stateside. Godolphin's favored Al Suhail, himself a Jubilee candidate, was a near-miss third.

The Astrologist has already set up camp in England and raced twice. Tiring to seventh in the 1895 Duke of York (G2) (to Azure Blue and King's Stand favorite Highfield Princess), The Astrologist took a step forward when second in the seven-furlong John of Gaunt (G3) on June 10.

With his steady cruising speed best suited to a straight, the stiff six of the Jubilee should suit The Astrologist. The question is whether he can ever win a race of this magnitude; a minor award would probably be his ceiling.



### HONG KONG'S WELLINGTON LOOMS IN QUEEN ELIZABETH II JUBILEE by Kellie Reilly

Hong Kong's champion sprinter for the 2021-22 season, Wellington has been overtaken this term by the dazzling Lucky Sweynesse. But that's no demerit, considering that Lucky Sweynesse is currently ranked the joint second-best horse in the world. Only Japanese phenom Equinox rates higher on the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings.

Moreover, purely on the local Hong Kong ratings, Wellington is the fifth-ranked horse across all divisions. Aside from Lucky Sweynesse, the others ahead of him are the legendary Golden Sixty, Romantic Warrior, and California Spangle.

From that perspective, Wellington commands respect in his first international venture in the June 24 Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee (G1) at Royal Ascot. And there's precedent for Hong Kong speedsters to take their game on the road here.

Cape of Good Hope, toiling in the shadow of the great Silent Witness at Sha Tin, complimented him by performing well in the 2004-05 Royal meetings. Second in the 2004 King's Stand (G1) and wheeling back for third in the Jubilee, Cape of Good Hope won the 2005 Jubilee. Little Bridge sprang a 12-1 upset in the 2012 King's Stand, the year after Sweet Sanette was third as a 16-1 shot in the 2011 edition.

The most recent Hong Konger to try, Gold-Fun, missed by only a neck in the 2016 Jubilee. He represented Wellington's trainer, British expat Richard Gibson, who compares his current hope favorably.

"He's a better and younger horse than Gold-Fun, who was very unlucky not to win one," Gibson told David Morgan of asianracingreport.com.

Gibson has been plotting the Royal Ascot raid for a while, broaching the subject when Wellington captured last December's Hong Kong Sprint (G1). His pilot that day, British ace Ryan Moore, is booked for the Jubilee.

Bred in Australia and exported as a youngster ("private purchase griffin"), Wellington is by All Too Hard, the legendary Black Caviar's champion half-brother. Wellington is out of Group 2-placed Mihiri, a More Than Ready mare from a stellar European female line. The extended family includes last year's Jubilee hero, Naval Crown, as well as recent Epsom Oaks (G1) victress Soul Sister.

Wellington has won 12 of 23 starts, and placed five times, while racing exclusively at Sha Tin. After a promising introductory season when he rattled off a hat trick, he swiftly climbed the class ladder in the first half of 2021, culminating in the Chairman's Sprint Prize (G1). He's remained at the Group 1 or Group 2 level ever since.

Again reaching winning form in 2022, Wellington secured the champion sprinter title with a three-race skein. He rolled from off the pace in the about seven-furlong Queen's Silver Jubilee Cup (G1) on a good-to-yielding course, beating Waikuku, who was favored off his stunning upset of Golden Sixty in his prior start.

Wellington reverted to his typical about six-furlong trip in the Sprint Cup (G2). By ripping his final sectional (about a quarter-mile) in :21.68, he got up in time to nip Sight Success despite toting joint top weight of 128 pounds. Then he scored a repeat in the Chairman's Sprint Prize, driving from midpack as the favorite.

Wellington began the 2022-23 season in similar form, winning the Oct. 23 Premier Bowl H. (G2) under 135 pounds off the layoff in 1:07.78 on a good-to-firm surface. He gave Lucky Sweynesse 11 pounds that day, but the pendulum would eventually swing to the up-and-comer. Wellington regressed to sixth in their rematch in the Jockey Club Sprint (G2), with the legitimate excuse of a lame right hind leg.

Back to health in time for the Hong Kong Sprint, Wellington regained the winning thread. Lucky Sweynesse was a luckless sixth on the inside, as Wellington had the luxury of building uninterrupted momentum in the clear.

Their fortunes have completely reversed in the interim. Lucky Sweynesse hasn't lost since, recently extending his spree to six in a row. Four of those came in renewed clashes with Wellington. Second to the new star in the Centenary Sprint Cup (G1), Wellington was dethroned in his spring majors – the Queen's Silver Jubilee Cup, Sprint Cup, and Chairman's Sprint Prize.

The beaten champ placed in all three, but the nearest he got was one length in the Sprint Cup. Wellington put the cheekpieces back on and got the jump on Lucky Sweynesse, but couldn't hold him off. The margin exceeded four lengths in the others, most recently his third in the April 30 Chairman's Sprint Prize.

If not for the spectacular rise of Lucky Sweynesse, Wellington would bring a gaudier resume to Royal Ascot. But the sprinter still has world-class form to his credit. He won over Sha Tin's straight course going about five furlongs earlier in his career, and his wind-up running style suggests that he'd appreciate the straight six at Ascot.





### REVIEWING MY 12 YEARS OF HANDICAPPING ROYAL ASCOT

by Vance Hanson



The 2023 Royal Ascot meeting will be my 13th at offering selections on Thursday and Friday of the five-day fixture, which runs from June 20-24. My colleague Kellie Reilly and I began covering Royal Ascot in 2011, tag-teaming to provide a Daily Selections tipsheet that was initially sold at Brisnet.com. After a few years, we began offering our insights on a complimentary basis at Brisnet, and they have since gravitated to their permanent home on the TwinSpires Edge.

For me, Royal Ascot is one of the most anticipated weeks of the racing year. It's an intellectual handicapping challenge par excellence, affording an American like myself the opportunity to match wits against bettors in the U.K. and around the world, many of whom have the advantage of having their finger on the pulse of European racing on a more frequent basis. With generally large and competitive fields, the rewards for being right can be extremely lucrative.

As intellectually stimulating, fun, and colorful as Royal Ascot is, it's also a pressure cooker. Concentrating exclusively on Group stakes and omitting handicaps (which requires a significant time investment and a skillset I have not yet attempted to hone), my handicapping success or failure is determined by the results of a mere eight races over two days.

As many files and blogs have been lost to history, I had long ago given up hope of reconstructing a complete record of my winning Thursday and Friday selections over the past dozen years. However, through intense prowling of various hard drive and email records over the past nine months or so, I've come up with what I believe is a very accurate table of winners selected on my annual two-day allotment.

What follows is an effort at transparency, and also an opportunity for me to discern trends and make noteworthy observations about my selection-making process. Please note these are results of my Thursday and Friday selections only and do not account for published spot plays on other days of the meet I've made over the years. I've had varying success trespassing on Kellie Reilly's turf on the other days, but attempts at such have been highly infrequent and those records are very much incomplete.

YEAR	RACE	WINNER	U.K. ODDS	U.S. PAYOFF
2011	Ribblesdale Albany	Banimpire Samitar	3-1* 16-1	NA NA
2012	Ribblesdale Tercentenary Albany Queen's Vase	Princess Highway Energizer Newfangled Estimate	17-2 15-2 7-4* 3-1*	NA NA NA
2013	Albany	Kiyoshi	8-1	NA
2014	Tercentenary Gold Cup	Cannock Chase Leading Light	7-4* 10-11*	NA NA
2015	Albany King Edward VII	Illuminate Balios	4-1 3-1	NA NA
2016	Ribblesdale Gold Cup Commonwealth Cup Coronation	Even Song Order of St George Quiet Reflection Qemah	15-8* 10-11* 7-4* 6-1	NA NA NA
2017	Commonwealth Cup	Caravaggio	5-6*	NA
2018	Commonwealth Cup	Eqtidaar	12-1	NA
2019	Norfolk Gold Cup Albany Commonwealth Cup	A'Ali Stradivarius Daahyeh Advertise	5-1 1-1* 4-1* 8-1	\$13.70 \$3.60 \$12.50 \$17.50
2020	Jersey Gold Cup Norfolk	Molatham Stradivarius The Lir Jet	11-2 4-5* 9-2	\$13.90 \$3.00 \$14.50
2021	Norfolk King Edward VII	Perfect Power Alenquer	14-1 15-8*	\$31.60 \$4.20
2022	Norfolk Hampton Court Commonwealth Cup	-	50-1 7-1 7-2*	\$90.70 \$14.80 \$6.80





The first thing to note is I've made selections for 97 races on Thursdays and Fridays since 2011. There was an additional Group race in 2017, so I selected nine races that year. All have been Group events, with one exception; in the pandemic year of 2020, Day 3 of Royal Ascot had just two Group races scheduled, so I also ventured an opinion (a mistake, as it turned out, and one not to be repeated) on the Chesham, a listed event for two-year-olds. There was still a grand total of eight races selected that year.

From those 97 races, I have selected the winner in 29 (29.9%).

Given my desire to stand against favorites whenever possible, I'm somewhat miffed that 15 of my 29 winning selections were the betting favorite, based on U.K. odds (access to U.S. payoffs before 2019 are limited, thus I'm obliged to use U.K. odds for stats below). On the plus side, only five of the 15 were at even-money or less, while four were at 3-1 or higher.

Based solely on U.K. odds and the minimum the horses would have paid if the price were the same in a U.S. pari-mutuel pool, my ROI on the 97 races would be \$4.43 for every \$2 wagered to win.

My selections on Thursdays and Fridays have shown a flat-bet profit in 10 of the 12 years, including the last five in succession. My worst year was clearly 2017, when the odds-on Caravaggio (Commonwealth Cup) was my only winner among nine races. My other losing year was 2014, when two short-priced winners out of eight weren't enough.

While welcome, my success in the two-year-old features astounds me. I've tabbed the last four winners of the Norfolk, including two long-priced ones. It's been a perfect race to hold a contrarian view, as no post-time favorite has won it since 2008.

In the early years, the Albany for two-year-old fillies was my best race, though it must be noted that three of my five winning selections also happened to be post-time favorites.

The Gold Cup, the meet centerpiece over 2 1/2 miles, is not a race you should expect to make a killing on. All four of my winners were sent off at even-money or less, while favorites have won eight of the last 12 runnings.

I generally find the Commonwealth Cup, the relatively new six-furlong sprint for three-year-old colts and fillies, truly baffling when I first sit down to handicap it every year. Despite that, it's been a consistently good race for me. I've selected five of the eight winners since its inauguration in 2015, and it would have been six had Dragon Symbol not been disqualified from the win in 2021.

From a purely personal standpoint, I'm highly disappointed in my record in some of my favorite races of the week. That includes the two 1 1/2-mile features for three-year-olds: the Ribblesdale for fillies (3-for-11) and the King Edward VII for colts and geldings (2-for-11). I'm especially embarrassed about my record in the Coronation (1-for-11), arguably the deepest and most competitive race for three-year-old filly milers in Europe all season. I'd much prefer it be a race I have a great feel for, but it simply hasn't worked out that way.

I've perhaps jinxed myself ahead of next week by rehashing past glories in this space, but I very much look forward to sifting through the Thursday and Friday cards of Royal Ascot week. Obviously, past performance does not guarantee future results, but I'll be working hard to ensure that it does.



### A LONGSHOT FOR EVERY DAY OF ROYAL ASCOT by Kellie Reilly



While the build-up to Royal Ascot centers upon the favorites in the marquee races, longshots can pop up throughout the festival.

Pinpointing them is difficult enough once fields are set and track conditions are known. Even now, days in advance, when the fields are still crystallizing and the state of the ground remains a variable, it is still possible to identify a few to keep an eye on. With that preamble, here's a stab at an interesting price play for each day of the meeting.

#### TUESDAY'S KING'S STAND (G1) - MITBAAHY

If Roger Varian puts in a good word for a runner, unilaterally and without prompting, it's worth heeding. The trainer did just that in a recent Sky Sports Racing interview on his Royal Ascot squad, mentioning **MITBAAHY** as one he expects to outperform his odds in the King's Stand (G1) on opening day.

By 2016 King's Stand winner Profitable, and a half-brother to California turf celebrity Going Global, Mitbaahy held his own as a sophomore taking on older sprinters last season. He was favored in the Charge (G3) at Sandown, where he just missed after a checkered trip, and later got up in time in Newbury's World Trophy (G3), with **MANACCAN** a close third. Although never involved on bottomless ground in the Prix de l'Abbaye (G1) on Arc Day, Mitbaahy was beaten all of four lengths in a race that did not set up for closers.

In his 2023 reappearance in the Temple (G2), Mitbaahy was a better-than-appears fifth to the sharp filly Dramatised, while racing on the disadvantaged far side of the course. Varian believes that the tightener has put Mitbaahy just right for the King's Stand. The antepost market is beginning to take note, and Mitbaahy's odds have dropped to 18-1 at this writing (15-1 in the Brisnet past performances).

#### WEDNESDAY'S DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE (G2) -ROGUE MILLENNIUM

Supplemented to this distaff contest, **ROGUE MILLENNIUM** will be shortening up to a mile for the first time. But the Shadwell-bred daughter of Dubawi shapes up as the type to thrive on the cutback. It was her blistering turn of foot, rather than stamina, that netted her last year's steadily-run Lingfield Oaks Trial. A non-staying seventh in the 2022 Oaks (G1) at Epsom behind future Breeders' Cup star Tuesday and Emily Upjohn, she has been competing around 1 1/4 miles ever since

In fine form so far this campaign, Rogue Millennium has placed in all three starts at double-digit odds. The 33-1 shot rallied from last to take second versus males in the Magnolia S. over the Kempton Polytrack. A close third at 14-1 in the Prix Allez France (G3) at Longchamp, Rogue Millennium nearly upset hot favorite Free Wind in the Middleton (G2) at York last out. She came up a half-length shy as a 20-1 outsider, rattling off her final three furlongs in :32.92. To put that effort in perspective, Free Wind is currently near the top of the market for Saturday's Hardwicke (G2) against elite males.

Both her explosive kick and her action make Rogue Millennium a tantalizing prospect at this distance, especially in an open-looking renewal. She's not far off on official ratings.

#### THURSDAY – TRUESHAN IN THE GOLD CUP (G1), AND A BACK-UP

Haskoy was going to be my price play in the Gold Cup, until an injury prompted her retirement. So it's back to the drawing board and a second look at an old-guard warrior.

If everyone knew that **TRUESHAN** would turn up with his "A" game, on his prerequisite of rain-slowed ground, he'd never be 20-1. Even if he runs, it's anyone's guess if he'll return to form after two disappointing efforts this year.

But there are two reasons to suspect he might: Trueshan was diagnosed with a breathing issue that has since been corrected by a procedure, and trainer Alan King revealed that the seven-year-old worked exceptionally well last week.

At his best, Trueshan rates a threat because of his prowess over the course and his proven stamina at the 2 1/2-mile distance of the Gold Cup (G1) – a real question mark for a number of top contenders. A three-time winner of the British Champions Long Distance Cup (G2) here, he achieved the three-peat in a pulsating duel last October with Gold Cup favorite **COLTRANE**.

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Trueshan has also traded decisions with star stayer Stradivarius. In their final meeting, Trueshan was a hard-trying third, as the defending champion, in last summer's Goodwood Cup (G1). The ground was too quick for him, but Trueshan battled bravely against Kyprios and Stradivarius.

That brings us to the next hurdle – the weather. Trueshan was withdrawn from the Gold Cup for the past two years because of good-to-firm going. The forecast suggests that the ground could have enough residual moisture for him to race on Thursday, but it devolves into a waiting game now. This whole discussion is moot if Trueshan scratches again; still, he's worth discussing at a forgottenhorse price.

In case Trueshan opts out, a juvenile in the Norfolk (G2) could come to the rescue as a Thursday longshot – **DEVIOUS**. Entries for the two-year-old races are too chaotic to nail longshot colors to the mast in advance, which is why I avoid them for this kind of story. But the Donnacha O'Brien trainee isn't cross-entered anywhere else at Royal Ascot, making him a worthwhile option at 10-1. By Starspangledbanner and out of a half-sister to dual classic-winning champion Attraction, Devious drove to a good-looking victory on debut at Naas. The placed horses give him collateral form with Marble Hill (G3) winner Givemethebeatboys, who runs in Tuesday's Coventry (G2), and smart Ballydoyle prospect Unquestionable.

#### FRIDAY'S COMMONWEALTH CUP (G1) - MARBAAN

Speaking of horses who've fallen off the radar, **MARBAAN** is arguably overpriced at 25-1 (from 33-1 a couple of days ago) as he returns to sophomore company. At this time a year ago, the Charlie Fellowes pupil was commencing a three-race winning streak that culminated in a last-to-first Vintage (G2). He was overlooked as a 14-1 chance that day, but nailed the favorite, Holloway Boy, who was a solid yardstick.

Marbaan never landed a blow in his final two outings as a juvenile, the Vincent O'Brien National (G1) and Dewhurst (G1). While soft going in Ireland was blamed for the former, he didn't have that excuse for his no-show in the latter at Newmarket, and I'm inclined to cite the seven-furlong distance. Marbaan had gotten away with it in an evenly-run Vintage on a turning, slalom circuit, and versus lesser at Salisbury, but not at the top level in a fast Dewhurst.

Thus Fellowes decided to focus on a sprint campaign and not attempt the mile classics. Perhaps too fresh out on the wing in the center of the course when fourth in the Commonwealth Cup Trial (G3), Marbaan was a lot better next time versus elders in the Cathedral S. He had to come off the fence to rally in tandem with Run to Freedom and succumbed by only a head, with the smart Sandrine fifth. Run to Freedom, the runner-up to Kinross in last fall's British Champions Sprint (G1), and Sandrine go in Saturday's Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee (G1). Marbaan will need to move forward again to factor here. But the wellregarded son of Oasis Dream, and grandson of blue hen Tanaghum (dam of The Foxes, Bangkok, Matterhorn, et al), has the scope to get involved at a very big price.

#### SATURDAY'S QUEEN ELIZABETH II JUBILEE (G1) - SACRED

Hong Kong's Wellington was penciled in as the value play. I think the world of him, but his price has contracted so far that he's now the second favorite to the Australian Artorius. Still approximating our theme, though, is a top-class mare I've loved since her juvenile days – **SACRED**.



My top choice in this race last year, Sacred was beaten only a length in fifth in a blanket finish, just adrift of Artorius and her old foe, Wesley Ward's Campanelle. That was off a layoff, but this time around, the William Haggas trainee has the benefit of a tune-up. And what a prep it was, a sparkling display in the Chartwell Fillies' (G3). Sacred spurted 2 3/4 lengths clear of **SANDRINE** in 1:21.50, a fast time for seven furlongs on the Lingfield Polytrack.

That's the rub: Sacred's optimal trip is seven, the distance of her major wins in the 2021 Nell Gwyn (G3) (over Saffron Beach) and Hungerford (G2) over older males. But the stiffer six furlongs of Ascot can help bring her strong finish into play. She also needs a quicker surface. If the course hasn't dried out enough, Haggas will scratch. So her presence on Saturday would be a very encouraging sign that Haggas finds conditions suitable.

By Exceed and Excel and out of a half-sister to champion Lady Eli, Sacred was kept in training in hopes of adding a Group 1 laurel to her resume.



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