

WINTER DERBY & HEVER STAKES

BETTING GUIDE
SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY



Lingfield Park showcases the Group 3 BetUK Winter Derby Stakes this Saturday, with the 4-time Group 1 winner Lord North set to be on show amongst plenty of fierce rivals. Not to mention that there are 7 other highly competitive contests with big fields and plenty of betting value for players!

RACE 1 BetUK's Acca Club £5 Free Bet Handicap 1m 4f <hr/> PRIZE MONEY £8,200	RACE 2 BetUK Hever Sprint stakes (Listed Race) 5f <hr/> PRIZE MONEY £45,000	RACE 3 BetUK Winter Derby Stakes (Group 3) 1m 2f <hr/> PRIZE MONEY £100,000	RACE 4 Spreadex Sports Get £40 in Bonuses Handicap 1m <hr/> PRIZE MONEY £25,200
RACE 5 Talksport Powered by Fans Novice Stakes 1m <hr/> PRIZE MONEY £10,000	RACE 6 BetUK Over 40,000 Live Streamed Races Maiden Stakes 5f <hr/> PRIZE MONEY £100,000	RACE 7 Huge Daily Boosts at BetUK Handicap 2m <hr/> PRIZE MONEY £10,000	RACE 8 Top Odds Every Day With BetUK Handicap 1m 2f <hr/> PRIZE MONEY £8,200

JOCKEYS TO WATCH



ALL WEATHER JOCKEY STANDINGS	Wins
Kevin Stott	61
Daniel Muscutt	59
Rossa Ryan	43

This season, correct as of 24/2/23

TRAINERS TO WATCH



ALL WEATHER TRAINER STANDINGS	Wins
Michael Appleby	50
George Boughey	38
Charlie Appleby	27

This season, correct as of 24/2/23

EXPERT TIPS

FROM SIMON MAPLETOFT

Sky Sports Racing and attheraces.com's All-Weather expert gives his analysis and selections for Saturday.



RACE 2 15:30 Exalted Angel

EXALTED ANGEL can claim his reward for a string of solid performances in defeat this winter by taking an average renewal of the BetUK Hever Sprint Stakes (1.30) at Lingfield on Saturday.

Karl Burke's decision to reach for the first-time visitor can give the seven-year-old that vital edge in the £45,000 added 5f feature.

He ran as well as ever to finish within three-parts of a length of sprint sensation Annaf in the Listed Kachy Stakes over 6f at this track earlier in the month after making the frame in the Listed Golden Rose and two other top races this winter.

Winner of the Kachy Stakes and a short-head second in the Sprint Final at this track in 2021, Exalted Angel is well drawn to stalk the pace in stall five and confirm his superiority over **Alligator Alley** and **Tone The Barone** in a Fast Track Qualifier over 5f at Newcastle in December.

The improver in the pack is John Quinn's trailblazing mare **Miss Nay Never**, who has taken her form to new levels this winter and has elevated her status to 99 following a dynamic display at Chelmsford City. However, the widest draw in stall 10 has compromised her prospects in this higher grade.

RACE 3 14:05 Lord North

Lord North, who was beaten by Alenquer in last year's renewal, will become the highest rated winner in the 26-year history of the race if he can overcome his seven rivals, including Gosden's 2021 winner Forest Of Dean. Just as it was 12 months ago, the 10f showpiece – a Fast Track Qualifier for the Easter Classic on Good Friday – will be a 'prep' run for another crack at the Group 1 Dubai Turf on World Cup night.

Forest Of Dean showed he's no back number when emerging from a spell in the doldrums to win another qualifier at Newcastle. That slowly run contest fell in his lap but attempting to out-do his stable companion off a 13lb lower mark poses a bigger question.

The Gosdens also run the reliable **Harrovian** who has been placed in the last two runnings of the Listed Churchill Stakes over course and distance but couldn't capitalise from the front in that muddling race at Newcastle last time, finding no answer to Forest Of Dean's superior turn of foot.

It's too early to write off Roger Varian's **Tyrrhenian Sea** on his first start on the All-Weather since failing to justify a short price in last season's Easter Classic. His three wins on synthetics have all been registered at Newcastle so he has to prove himself on this tight, turning track.

Lucander elevated his rating to 106 after winning a local Group 2 in Bahrain for George Baker last week but came up short in handicaps in this country last summer and needs to improve to get involved.

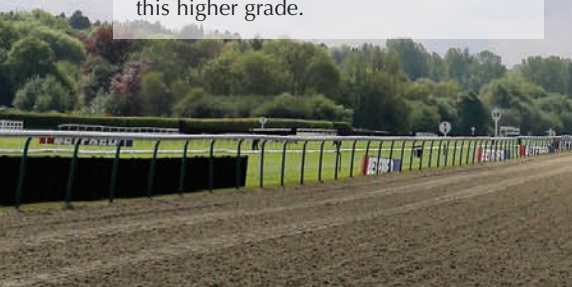
RACE 4 14:40 Diderot (NAP)

Danny Muscutt can register another significant win in his pursuit of the jockeys' championship when he partners **DIDEROT** in the Spreadex Sports Get £40 In Bonuses Handicap (2.40) at Lingfield.

James Ferguson's gelding made a pleasing return to action after a lengthy break in a good 1m handicap at Southwell last month and proved his effectiveness on this sharper track when only just failing to win a hot handicap at last year's Winter Million Festival.

Diderot was also smart enough to finish within half a length of the 113-rated My Oberon in a Fast Track Qualifier conditions stakes at Southwell last winter and remains well treated on a mark of 95. Indeed, victory here could put him in contention for a crack at the Mile Final on Good Friday, which is shaping up to be an open race.

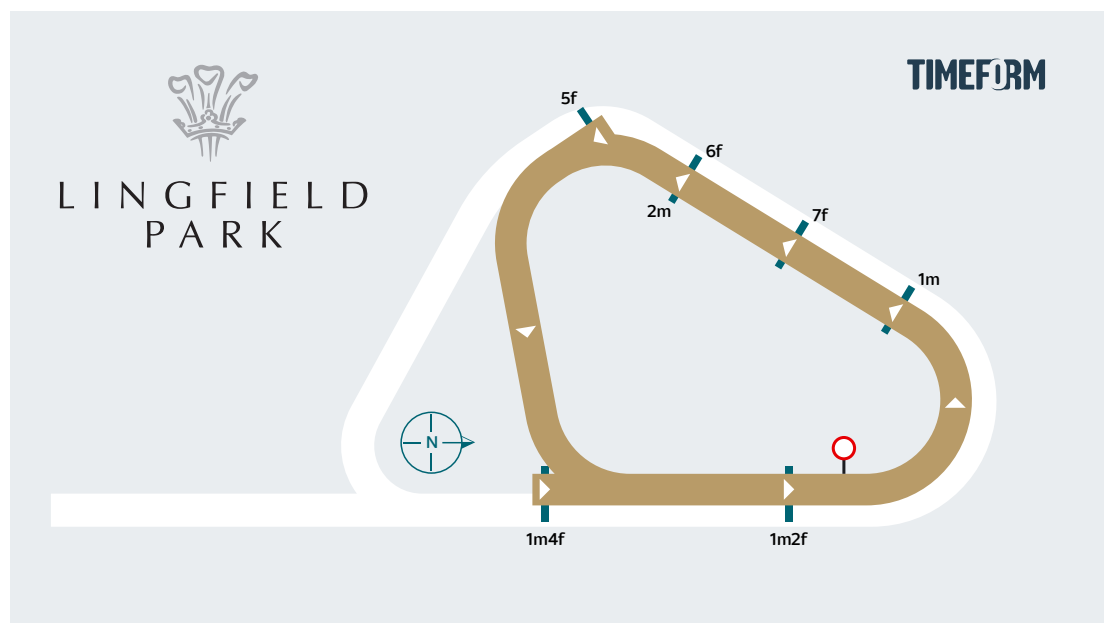
The obvious danger is John and Thady Gosden's sparsely campaigned **Security Code**, who hasn't seen the racetrack in 10 months after only just failing to deny a penalty for his debut success in a Yarmouth novice last spring. He could be well treated off 90 on this handicap debut but has something to prove for a horse likely to be sent off at skinny odds.



GUIDE TO LINGFIELD PARK

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

“Lingfield’s 1m 2f all-weather start is a tough one, very draw-dependent. The same is true of the 5f and 6f starts. I always think it’s a track that lends itself to riding in the ‘third wave’. In races over 1m, for example, the first wave will go with maybe 5f left, round the initial turn, while the second wave will kick into the home straight. The third wave usually attacks at the 1f pole and often comes out best. You don’t want to be way out of your ground, but patience can pay.”



Lingfield’s left-handed all-weather track is laid out inside the turf track and, measuring just less than a mile and a quarter round, is essentially sharp in nature. This, along with how the races often pan out ensures that stamina is rarely at a premium and strong-travelling types with a turn of foot are often favoured. For nearly half its length, the round course is flat, then rising to the summit of a slight hill after which there is a downhill turn to the straight.





GUIDE TO THE TALKSPORT WINTER OAKS FILLIES HANDICAP

BY JAMIE LYNCH

Sky Sports Racing's **Jamie Lynch** gives his verdict on every runner for Saturdays feature contest

FOREST OF DEAN

Collen Storey | J & T Gosden



Firstly, he's fit and firing, fresh from an FTQ win at Newcastle where he had Harrovian and King Of The South behind. Secondly, his course craft is an advantage, having finished first and fourth in previous editions of the Winter Derby. And thirdly, with age comes experience, and, at 7, he's uncomplicated and untethered by tactics, assistive assets if, as seems likely, the race turns out muddling and messy. However, he's way behind his stable-companion Lord North on figures and little or no better than most of the rest, and not getting any younger. Therefore, for me, there are horses at bigger prices just as likely as Forest Dean to reach the podium.

HARROVIAN

K T O'Neill | J & T Gosden



Has run well on all three of his starts at Lingfield, including finishing a respectful distance behind Missed The Cut and Algiers in third in the Churchill in November, but has since fluffed his lines when favourite for the Qualifier at Newcastle won by Forest Of Dean. If not before then why now? But perhaps the answer to the question of why he's here is to service his higher-powered team-mate Lord North, in the same ownership: Harrovian made the running at Newcastle, and maybe he'll ensure a good gallop in order to take tactics out of the race and make class count, to the benefit of Lord North.

FOXES TALES

Rob Hornby | A M Balding



Last season was pretty much a washout, with his talent on the wane and temperament on the rise, so it seemed, but it's interesting that Andrew Balding is persevering with him in good company, and having him gelded during the winter could make a discernible difference to him. Augmenting the optimism, first time is often a good time to catch such characters – he won on his reappearance as a 3yo and was second to Mostahdaf in a Group 3 first time back last year – and, adding to the would-be stimulants, he's doing something different regards the environment, on the All-Weather for the first time since his very first race in 2020. In short, he's interesting because of his back-class in tandem with the potentially reinvigorating variables in play.

KING OF THE SOUTH

J P Spencer | W J Knight



Second in the Winter Derby Trial last year, but he is mostly steered clear of Lingfield (despite his preference for synthetics) because the other, more galloping All-Weather courses suit his style that much better. Finished behind both Forest Of Dean and Harrovian in the FTQ over this trip at Newcastle in January, telling of his uphill task in this race with greater strength in depth, on a sharper track. Unless they go hard, which appears improbable looking at the line-up, it's difficult to see King Of The South playing much of a part.



GUIDE TO THE TALKSPORT WINTER OAKS FILLIES HANDICAP

BY JAMIE LYNCH

Sky Sports Racing's **Jamie Lynch** gives his verdict on every runner for Saturdays feature contest

LORD NORTH

R Havlin | J & T Gosden



He's the eleventh highest-earning British-trained horse in history. That's quite the strapline. Of course, what matters as much as that you make big money is how you make big money, and winning 1½ Sheema Classics (dead-heated on second occasion) is obviously a huge cash cow. While the last time we saw him was in the Coral-Eclipse in which he was beaten less than a length. He's a class above these, but the burning question is whether the screws are tightened sufficiently to show that he's a class above these, with a return trip to Meydan on the horizon? Yes, he was overturned in this as a prep run last year, but let's not overlook that it took a race-record time and a Group 1 horse like Alenquer to beat him, and there's nothing of his calibre in this field. The probability is that Lord North wins, but is it an odds-on probability, when it's not his main target, after a long lay-off? I'll pass.

LUCANDER

Andrea Atzeni | George Baker



This feels like a case of after the Lord Mayor's show for Lucander, whose primary purpose for purchase by George Baker at the end of last year was to shine in Sakhir, mission accomplished, because he won not once but twice in Bahrain, including a local Group 2 only last week. That form, in theory, puts him on a par with most in here outside of Lord North, but his schedule inevitably raises some doubts to the likelihood of seeing a full-power version of Lucander, given a lot of travelling and little recovery time. Furthermore, he's not accustomed to All-Weather racing, having done it only once before (back in 2019).

PISTOLETTO

David Probert | J Ryan



Way out of his depth, as was the case in last year's Winter Derby when he was 150/1 and unthreatening. Has slipped to a rating of just 78 nowadays, lower than ever in the handicap.

TYRRHENIAN SEA

F Norton | R G Fell



Despite being a five-year-old, there's still a sense of unfinished business about him, yet to hit the heights his early days promised, but this will be just the tenth race of his life, significant that Roger Varian is still thinking big with him, hence this entry, and the return to the All-Weather could be the making of him, remembering that he was 10/11 favourite for the Easter Classic last Good Friday.

He appeared to be outstayed that day, after trading at 33/1-on in-running, and he has been kept to a mile ever since, but if he's going to last out the trip anywhere then it will be around Lingfield, and his extra speed will count for plenty if this turns tactical. In a race in which every other runner has shown their hand, the unknown qualities of Tyrrhenian Sea mark him out from the crowd, in a positive way, and he's perhaps the likeliest to stand up if Lord North falls short for fitness.

VERDICT

It's easy to say this is **Lord North's** race to lose, because of his overwhelming power compared to the opposition, but equally it's hard to row in big with him at odds-on knowing that, like last year, it's his warm-up after a lay-off for the Sheema Classic, especially as Lingfield is a pretty unforgiving track for any ring-rustiness. **Tyrrhenian Sea** makes most sense as an alternative, but at the odds – as big as 18/1 on the opening show – **FOX TALES** is too tempting for me to resist, given that he's comfortably the second-best horse in here on his old form and the hope that the new factors for him – chiefly being gelded – act as a catalyst for a comeback.

TIMEFORM TIPS

RACE

1

1st **FORGE VALLEY LAD** (5)

2nd **LATER DARLING** (6)

3rd **RENARDEAU** (2)

RACE

2

1st **ALLIGATOR ALLEY** (1)

2nd **MISS NAY NEVER** (10)

3rd **TONE THE BARONE** (6)

RACE

3

1st **LORD NORTH** (5)

2nd **TYRRHENIAN SEA** (8)

3rd **FOREST OF DEAN** (1)

RACE

4

1st **SECURITY CODE** (7)

2nd **NOTRE BELLE BETE** (6)

3rd **DIDEROT** (4)

RACE

5

1st **BURGLAR** (2)

2nd **GARRICK STREET** (4)

3rd **BEAR ON THE LOOSE** (1)

RACE

6

1st **SOARING EAGLE** (9)

2nd **RESTRICT** (7)

3rd **CRIMSON ANGEL** (8)

RACE

7

1st **BASHFUL BOY** (3)

2nd **MINISTER FOR MAGIC** (5)

3rd **SMART CHAMPION** (2)

RACE

8

1st **MARION'S BOY** (3)

2nd **CRESTA DE VEGA** (2)

3rd **SUNDAYINMAY** (5)



Alligator Alley



Tone The Barone



Lord North