



ROYAL
ASCOT

ROYAL ASCOT BETTING GUIDE

presented by **twinspires™**



twinspires™


ROYAL
ASCOT

ROYAL ASCOT BETTING GUIDE

A special thank you to GBI Racing for their partnership in this betting guide.

CONTENTS

- 3 Race Schedule
- 4 Setting the Scene
- 5 Feature Events
- 6 Five Superstars to Keep an Eye Out For
- 7 Royal Ascot Preview
- 8 Five Long Shots to Look Out For
- 9 Royal Ascot Playbook
- 10 Pick 4 from the American Point of View
- 11 French Can Get Royal Ascot Off to a Flying Start with Recoletos
- 12 North American Horses at Ascot
- 13 Group Race Histories
- 16 Trainer & Jockey Trends
- 19 Tipsheets



ROYAL ASCOT RACE SCHEDULE

TUESDAY - JUNE 19, 2018

BST (Local)	UTC	EDT	CDT	MDT	PDT	Race	Age	Prize Fund	Distance
2:30pm	1:30 PM	9:30 AM	8:30 AM	7:30 AM	6:30 AM	The Queen Anne Stakes (Group 1)	4+	£600000	One mile
3:05pm	2:05 PM	10:05 AM	9:05 AM	8:05 AM	7:05 AM	The Coventry Stakes (Group 2)	2	£150000	Six furlongs
3:40pm	2:40 PM	10:40 AM	9:40 AM	8:40 AM	7:40 AM	The King's Stand Stakes (Group 1)	3+	£500000	Five furlongs
4:20pm	3:20 PM	11:20 AM	10:20 AM	9:20 AM	8:20 AM	The St James's Palace Stakes (Group 1)	3	£500000	Old mile
5:00pm	4:00 PM	12:00 PM	11:00 AM	10:00 AM	9:00 AM	The Ascot Handicap (0-100)	4+	£90000	2 1/2 miles
5:35pm	4:35 PM	12:35 PM	11:35 AM	10:35 AM	9:35 AM	The Wolferton Stakes (Listed)	4+	£100000	1 1/4 miles

WEDNESDAY - JUNE 20, 2018

BST (Local)	UTC	EDT	CDT	MDT	PDT	Race	Age	Prize Fund	Distance
2:30pm	1:30 PM	9:30 AM	8:30 AM	7:30 AM	6:30 AM	The Queen Mary Stakes (Group 2)	2	£110000	Five furlongs
3:05pm	2:05 PM	10:05 AM	9:05 AM	8:05 AM	7:05 AM	The Queen's Vase (Group 2)	3	£200000	1 3/4 miles
3:40pm	2:40 PM	10:40 AM	9:40 AM	8:40 AM	7:40 AM	The Duke of Cambridge Stakes (Group 2)	4+	£175000	One mile
4:20pm	3:20 PM	11:20 AM	10:20 AM	9:20 AM	8:20 AM	The Prince of Wales's Stakes (Group 1)	4+	£750000	1 1/4 miles
5:00pm	4:00 PM	12:00 PM	11:00 AM	10:00 AM	9:00 AM	The Royal Hunt Heritage Handicap	3+	£175000	One mile
5:35pm	4:35 PM	12:35 PM	11:35 AM	10:35 AM	9:35 AM	The Jersey Stakes (Group 3)	3	£90000	Seven furlongs

THURSDAY - JUNE 21, 2018

BST (Local)	UTC	EDT	CDT	MDT	PDT	Race	Age	Prize Fund	Distance
2:30pm	1:30 PM	9:30 AM	8:30 AM	7:30 AM	6:30 AM	The Norfolk Stakes (Group 2)	2	£100000	Five furlongs
3:05pm	2:05 PM	10:05 AM	9:05 AM	8:05 AM	7:05 AM	The Hampton Court Stakes (Group 3)	3	£90000	1 1/4 miles
3:40pm	2:40 PM	10:40 AM	9:40 AM	8:40 AM	7:40 AM	The Ribblesdale Stakes (Group 2)	3	£200000	1 1/2 miles
4:20pm	3:20 PM	11:20 AM	10:20 AM	9:20 AM	8:20 AM	The Gold Cup (Group 1)	4+	£500000	2 1/2 miles
5:00pm	4:00 PM	12:00 PM	11:00 AM	10:00 AM	9:00 AM	The Britannia Handicap	3	£120000	One mile
5:35pm	4:35 PM	12:35 PM	11:35 AM	10:35 AM	9:35 AM	The King George V Handicap (0-105)	3	£90000	1 1/2 miles

FRIDAY - JUNE 22, 2018

BST (Local)	UTC	EDT	CDT	MDT	PDT	Race	Age	Prize Fund	Distance
2:30pm	1:30 PM	9:30 AM	8:30 AM	7:30 AM	6:30 AM	The Albany Stakes (Group 3)	2	£90000	Six furlongs
3:05pm	2:05 PM	10:05 AM	9:05 AM	8:05 AM	7:05 AM	The King Edward VII Stakes (Group 2)	3	£225000	1 1/2 miles
3:40pm	2:40 PM	10:40 AM	9:40 AM	8:40 AM	7:40 AM	The Commonwealth Cup (Group 1)	3	£500000	Six furlongs
4:20pm	3:20 PM	11:20 AM	10:20 AM	9:20 AM	8:20 AM	The Coronation Stakes (Group 1)	3	£500000	Old mile
5:00pm	4:00 PM	12:00 PM	11:00 AM	10:00 AM	9:00 AM	The Sandringham Handicap	3	£90000	One mile
5:35pm	4:35 PM	12:35 PM	11:35 AM	10:35 AM	9:35 AM	The Duke of Edinburgh Handicap (0-105)	3+	£90000	1 1/2 miles

SATURDAY - JUNE 23, 2018

BST (Local)	UTC	EDT	CDT	MDT	PDT	Race	Age	Prize Fund	Distance
2:30pm	1:30 PM	9:30 AM	8:30 AM	7:30 AM	6:30 AM	The Chesham Stakes (Listed)	2	£90000	Seven furlongs
3:05pm	2:05 PM	10:05 AM	9:05 AM	8:05 AM	7:05 AM	The Hardwicke Stakes (Group 2)	4+	£225000	1 1/2 miles
3:40pm	2:40 PM	10:40 AM	9:40 AM	8:40 AM	7:40 AM	The Windsor Castle Stakes (Listed)	2	£90000	Five furlongs
4:20pm	3:20 PM	11:20 AM	10:20 AM	9:20 AM	8:20 AM	The Diamond Jubilee Stakes (Group 1)	4+	£600000	Six furlongs
5:00pm	4:00 PM	12:00 PM	11:00 AM	10:00 AM	9:00 AM	The Wokingham Stakes (Heritage Handicap)	3+	£175000	Six furlongs
5:35pm	4:35 PM	12:35 PM	11:35 AM	10:35 AM	9:35 AM	The Queen Alexandra Stakes (Conditions)	4+	£90000	2 miles, 6 furlongs

SETTING THE SCENE AHEAD OF FIVE MAGNIFICENT DAYS AT THE ROYAL MEETING

by Nick Luck



My attachment to Ascot is visceral and unbreakable. (Very) nearly 40 years ago, I took my first breath in Heatherwood Hospital, about two furlongs from where Gunner B and Ile de Bourbon had prevailed 10 days before. Until two decades earlier, the site of the maternity unit had been part of the straight track.

My parents were National Hunt enthusiasts really - my Mum pre-trained jumpers on the old Hawthorn Hill racecourse half way to Maidenhead before they went back into full work with Josh Gifford, as well as the odd Flat horse for Norah Wilmot, legendary as the first woman to be officially credited with training a winner.

At the ripe old age of seven, I was sent to board at Papplewick School, whose red brick buildings can be seen from the top of the Grandstand poking out from behind the ten-furlong start at Swinley Bottom. Sometimes, on a raceday, I could wander in an idle moment to the back gate and crane my ear just enough to hear the commentary, occasionally enjoying an all-too-fleeting glimpse of hoof and color.

Other times, our zealous band of sporty teachers would impose the double torture of making us do a cross-country run on Ascot heath while racing was going on around us. I firmly believed this was not what Queen Anne had in mind for the nourishment of the young soul, and only served to make my desire to watch racing as fevered as my disdain for taking part in any organized games.



The American raider Tepin cast aside all doubts when she won the Queen Anne Stakes in 2016. Photo Courtesy of GBI Racing/PA

At Royal Ascot, we were teased even more mercilessly. We would troop across the Windsor Road, under the old tunnel, and stand on the infield at the quarter-mile pole in our regulation pale blue Peter Storm wind cheaters to wave at the procession. Then, with Her Majesty and guests safely on the way to the Royal Box, we would trudge back whence we came, crossing back to the school gate just as the runners headed to post for the first.

One year, the science teacher, Penny Parkinson, sensing my displeasure at having to wait until the next day's communal single copy of the Telegraph to find out the results, let me sneak into the lecture theatre to watch the coverage of one race on BBC2. So, in the unlikely event that it should ever pop up in even the most geeky of racing quizzes, I'll always be the man who can tell you that Amigo Menor won the 1991 Wokingham, ridden by Chris Rutter for David Murray-Smith.

Nearly thirty years on, much remains the same: the Queen is still greeted excitedly by wide-eyed schoolchildren, dresses and skirts should still be "of modest length, falling just above the knee or longer," and entry to the Royal Enclosure is by application and recommendation only. The 'greencoats' - the ceremonial guard for The Monarch at Ascot since 1744 - still wear coats and they are still green. There is still singing around the bandstand (though this is a newer tradition), and the Peers that long since lost their right to a seat in the House of Lords still find their right to hereditary privilege alive and well with a space in Car Park One.

But it is perhaps Royal Ascot's sense of timeless elegance, its deep-rootedness and unflinching observance of protocol that has paradoxically allowed it to now stand proud as the most modern and forward-thinking of global racing festivals. If you have confidence in your event, and guard its traditions and idiosyncrasies with loyalty and affection, you can be bolder in your ambition, knowing that the essence remains the same.

As such, the twelve-year-old Grandstand, subject of some snippy remarks at the time of building, now looks way ahead of its time and is rightly lauded as one of the finest facilities in the world. Four days became five in Golden Jubilee year (2002), and - far from a dilution of quality - the caliber of the sport has only increased and become more instrumental in defining the racing year.

But perhaps the greatest and most satisfying manifestation of Royal Ascot's swelling into the most sought-after event has been the growing international participation. From the mighty Aussie speed-hunk Choisir through American heroine Tepin, via a bevy of Wesley Ward-trained superbrats, these buccaneering triumphs would have been dismissed as a pure flight of fancy a generation ago.

Now, the Royal meeting is a coveted destination not just for the Tatlerati and blue bloods of Newmarket, but for the best horses, best horsemen and the beautiful people across the globe. Everybody wants a piece of these magical five days and if, like me, you were made to wait for it, it is easy to understand why.

FEATURE EVENTS OF THE 2018 ROYAL ASCOT MEET

by Jennifer Caldwell

Royal Ascot has upped its game for 2018. Not only is the prestigious meet offering 18 Group races – eight of which are Group 1 contests – and \$9.6 million in prize money, but also opportunities in the Queen Anne, Prince of Wales's, Norfolk and Diamond Jubilee for international runners to earn an automatic berth to the Breeders' Cup at Churchill Downs in November.

Some of each day's features, with notable likely runners, are below:

DAY 1

Royal Ascot kicks off in style with three Group 1 contests highlighting Day 1. The **Queen Anne Stakes** features YOSHIDA, who readied for the one-mile event with a nice win in the Old Forester Turf Classic (G1) on the Kentucky Derby undercard at Churchill Downs. The **King's Stand Stakes** brings back last year's romping winner, LADY AURELIA, for a title defense in the five-furlong affair. WITHOUT PAROLE will seek to move his record to a perfect four-for-four for trainer John Gosden in the one-mile **St James's Palace Stakes**.

DAY 2

The **Prince of Wales's Stakes** (Eng-G1) is featured on Day 2 and CRACKSMAN is the main draw in the 1 1/4-mile contest off Group 1 wins this year in the Coronation Cup and Prix Ganay. Trainer Wesley Ward is seeking his fourth victory in the five-furlong **Queen Mary Stakes** (Eng-G2) with Keeneland maiden romper CHELEA CLOISTERS.

ALJAZZI just missed in last year's **Duke of Cambridge Stakes** (Eng-G2) and will attempt to go one better this time around in the eight-furlong affair.

DAY 3

The **Ascot Gold Cup** (Eng-G1) is the showcase event on Day 3, which is also known as Ladies' Day. ORDER OF ST GEORGE returns for a third go in the 2 1/2-mile contest after capturing the 2016 running but missing by a head in last year's stand.

The five-furlong **Norfolk Stakes** (Eng-G2) is yet another race trainer Wesley Ward aims for during the Royal meeting and he sends out Keeneland maiden scorer SHANG SHANG SHANG.

The 1 1/2-mile **Ribblesdale Stakes** (Eng-G2) has attracted Epsom Oaks (Eng-G1) runner-up WILD ILLUSION as well as undefeated LAH TI DAR, a favorite for the Oaks before being ruled out.

DAY 4

One Thousand Guineas winners from Ireland (ALPHA CENTAURI), France (TEPPAL) and England (BILLESDON BROOK) are expected to face off in the **Coronation Stakes** (Eng-G1) going a mile on Day 4. SIOUX NATION earned his shot in the **Commonwealth Cup** (Eng-G1) with an Irish Group 3 score last month, but a slew of U.S.-based runners including the Wesley Ward-trained HEMP HEMP HURRAY will attempt to derail the Aidan O'Brien pupil in the six-furlong sprint.

DAY 5

Only two Group contests take place on Day 5, and the **Diamond Jubilee Stakes** (Eng-G1) will see BOUND FOR NOWHERE make his second attempt at Royal Ascot. Last year the Wesley Ward trainee finished fourth in the Commonwealth Cup. Also expected to show in the six-furlong sprint are THE TIN MAN and TASLEET, who ran one-two, respectively, in last year's edition of the Diamond Jubilee.

Trainer Sir Michael Stoute could exit the 2018 Royal meeting with a record 11th win in the 12-furlong **Hardwicke Stakes** (Eng-G2) thanks to CRYSTAL OCEAN.



FIVE SUPERSTARS TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR DURING ROYAL ASCOT



Photo Courtesy of GBI Racing/PA

LADY AURELIA

TUESDAY King's Stand Stakes

Royal Ascot is loaded to the front and the opening day on Tuesday has three Group 1 races. There is no more keenly anticipated horse across the five days, however, than Lady Aurelia. Wesley Ward's flying filly stunned the racing world with her runaway win in the Queen Mary two seasons ago, and she became a rare winner of the King's Stand Stakes by three lengths 12 months ago with her power-packed display in the five-furlong sprint. That she faces another superstar in Battaash, officially rated the best five-furlong turf sprinter in the world, makes it a race to savor.



Photo Courtesy of GBI Racing/Racingfotos

CRACKSMAN

WEDNESDAY Prince Of Wales's Stakes

Was it just a blip, or are we seeing the terminal decline of a brilliant talent? Cracksman is a red-hot favorite for Wednesday's Prince of Wales's Stakes over ten furlongs and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe – Europe's most important all-aged race in October -- but showed signs that all was not well last time when he scraped home from Salouen in the Coronation Cup at the Derby meeting last time. He did not look the most enthusiastic, had to be roused along by regular partner Frankie Dettori, and only got going when he met the rising ground under a furlong out. The following day trainer John Gosden said that the horse had rammed his head against the stabling stalls, which was not something Dettori had mentioned in dispatches after the race. It remains to be seen whether that was a reason for the under-par performance, or an excuse.



Photo Courtesy of GBI Racing/PA

ORDER OF ST GEORGE

THURSDAY Gold Cup

There is no Big Orange, last year's brilliant winner, but Order of St George returns to try to reclaim the crown he majestically won in 2016. Aidan O'Brien's six-year-old son of super sire Galileo won the Gold Cup by three lengths two seasons ago and went down in an absolute belter 12 months ago. He is unbeaten in three runs since he ran fourth to Enable in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, and faces a top field including John Gosden's Stradivarius and French raider Vazirabad, who showed his class on the international stage for a third time at Meydan in Dubai in March.



Photo Courtesy of GBI Racing/Racingfotos

ALPHA CENTAURI

FRIDAY Coronation Stakes

The fourth day of Royal Ascot is all about promise. The Commonwealth Cup is just three years old and showcases the burgeoning talents of sprinters who may well make their marks on the international stage later in their careers. Although the Coronation Stakes is worth the same at £500,000, it remains the feature and with three Guineas winners it is the highlight. Alpha Centauri was touched off in the Albany Stakes at the meeting last season, and roared back to form on suitably fast ground in the Irish 1,000 Guineas last month. She faces Billesdon Brook, the winner of the English Guineas, and Teppal, the winner of the French. A mouthwatering prospect.



Photo Courtesy of GBI Racing/Racingfotos

REDKIRK WARRIOR

SATURDAY Diamond Jubilee Stakes

It was a generally accepted rule in the past that Australian sprinters were better than British ones, but in Harry Angel the home team look to have a serious prospect. There was no better sprinter in the world last year than Clive Cox's representative, but his mettle will be put to the test by the raider from down under in Redkirk Warrior. Harry Angel has never won in four starts at Ascot, whereas Redkirk Warrior has proved himself at the track to a certain extent when he won there over ten furlongs when trained by William Haggas in Newmarket four years ago! Turned in to a multiple Group One sprinter in Australia by David Hayes and Tom Daberning, who have campaigned horses at Royal Ascot before, Redkirk Warrior looks a fearsome opponent and could well prevail at a decent price.

ROYAL ASCOT PREVIEW

by Nick Luck



No decade has seen such improvement in the analysis of horse racing as the last. The reason? Data – and lots of it. Now professional punters, and those merely curious to discover more about the sport, can interrogate sophisticated records of the performance of horses, trainers, jockeys and stallions.

A notable area of enlightenment is the study of race times. And Royal Ascot has been a focus for this, owing to the combination of top-class horses, fast going and big fields driving competitive races.

For years, the finishing times of horses were thought to be inconsequential in Britain. The most informative guides about time came from racing on dirt in the USA, but even these pedaled the myth that racing on turf was merely a test of finishing speed.

It should have been immediately obvious that this was false. Finishing speed wins races on the grass alright, but what comes before is important. The implication of a horse dipping under 22 seconds for the final quarter-mile is a lot different if it ran hard to the start of the sectional, compared with if it ran slowly.

Royal Ascot winners like Kingman, in the 2014 St James's Palace Stakes, and the great Frankel – a dual winner at the meeting – gave us a snapshot of the limits that the Thoroughbred can reach against the clock. And this only served to encourage many to delve deeper.

It had been known for many years that the true value of a horse's time is only apparent after discounting factors that have affected it, such as the layout of the track and the speed of the surface. Now, however, thanks to Big Data, we could take a step further: making allowance for the pace of a race.

It is a truism that only when a horse is paced efficiently will it run the best time within its capabilities. If race times only have value when the pace is good, most races on turf will be as useless to the analyst as popularly supposed. However, if we measure the speed of the last three furlongs of all races which yield a fast time, it becomes clear how to make allowance for deviations from the ideal, such as a slow early pace or a premature strike for home.

This is nowhere near so difficult as it sounds. If a horse is paced efficiently, its speed for the final three furlongs will be close to its speed for the whole race. This is only true on a level track, but it is not difficult to collect a large number of data points from horses of known merit and calculate the degree to which their final time has suffered on undulating tracks also.

Three horses due to be running at Royal Ascot enter the meeting off performances against the clock which would previously have been undervalued before this kind of sectional analysis – employed using video because British racing still does not see the value in sectional times – became possible.

BENBATL

Queen Anne Stakes – Tuesday

Top-class racing in other countries has often been treated by British punters as if it had taken place on the moon; it has taken us a long time to get over a certain snobbery towards foreign challengers at Royal Ascot and some of the lessons have been painful. Judged by ante-post betting, the quality of Benbatl's victory in the Dubai Turf at Meydan is not being fully recognized, for if it were he would be a clear favorite.

Benbatl won that Group 1 by three and a half lengths, clocking a very good time for the nine furlongs. And, in terms of acceleration, his earlier victory in the Group 2 Al Rashidiya was similarly world-class – when factoring in a final three furlongs of 32.8 seconds, which is a sensational mark.

WITHOUT PAROLE

St James's Palace Stakes – Tuesday

Trainer John Gosden has few peers when identifying a top-class horse in his yard. Given that he sent this son of Frankel to Newcastle and Yarmouth for his first two starts, however, one wonders if at least this one has grown on him a little. Certainly, few could have been prepared for what Without Parole did in a small race at Yarmouth on his second start. He covered the straight mile in an amazing 1m 34.83 – and the sectionals prove he managed to accelerate off that solid pace. When this time was compared with others on the card, it came out at a Pattern-class mark.

At the time, the runner-up Ostilio looked like a maiden with limitations but he has since bolted up at Newmarket and, back in the information dark ages, many would think Without Parole had a lot of improving to do to reach Group 1 level. That he only scrambled home (on soft going) in a Listed race at Sandown would have bolstered this impression, but, thanks to race times and sectionals, we know Without Parole is already top notch. This race could be where he proves it.

CRYSTAL OCEAN

Hardwicke Stakes – Saturday

Crystal Ocean was already widely recognized as a smart horse before the Al Rayyan Stakes at Newbury in May, for which he started odds-on.

That he won easily by six lengths surprised few observers and was attributed to his doing no more than was already apparent in his past performances. Not so.

The five-runner Group 3 was run at a slow pace and should have made it difficult for Crystal Ocean to open a wide margin over his very useful rivals. But that he did, running the final three furlongs in an estimated 35 seconds and, according to Timeform, the last four furlongs in 46 seconds. Given this, it is reasonable to see him as an improved horse, and this race will tell us whether he is the candidate for championship honors which his data now suggests.

FIVE LONG SHOTS TO LOOK OUT FOR AT ROYAL ASCOT

by Geoffrey Riddle



There is a graveyard of big-race favorites down the years at Royal Ascot and you only have to look at the names of beaten horses from meetings past to see that any horse is beatable, given the right set of circumstances.

Only last year Aidan O'Brien's Churchill was beaten at 1-2 in the St James's Palace Stakes, Wesley Ward's Happy Like a Fool was turned over at 10-11 in the Queen Mary, and Order of St George was also beaten at odds-on in the Gold Cup. Other notable scalps were Godolphin's Jack Hobbs, who was last at 2-1 in the Prince of Wales's Stakes and The Queen's Dartmouth failed to reward favorite backers at 9-4 in the Hardwicke Stakes.

Obviously all of the favorites I am taking on in this column have a good chance, it is just that there are reasons for thinking that they are probably too short in the market for what they might have achieved, or what their current form illustrates.

KACHY

King's Stand Stakes – Tuesday

Trying to take on Lady Aurelia and Battaash may well be madness, but the point of this column is to search for big prices and Kachy is certainly that.

Since Lady Aurelia won the King's Stand Stakes 12 months ago she has yet to win in three starts, and there is the possibility that trainer Wesley Ward has gone to the well of precocity once too many times. Battaash is harder to oppose, but he was awfully sluggish out of the gates at Haydock last time and should that happen once again he will struggle to reel in his main rival and Kachy at the business end up Ascot's hill.

Trained in Cheshire by Tom Dascombe, Kachy pinged out of the gates at Chester last month, pinned his ears back and went hell for leather. From the worst of the draw, he powered to a monstrous nine-length win from a Group performer in Growl.

Last time when pitted against Battaash at Haydock in the Temple Stakes, he was isolated on the far side of the track and had to run largely on his own. He may not turn that form around, but at double-figure odds he should outperform that expectation.

EMINENT

Prince of Wales's Stakes – Wednesday

Cracksman won the ugly way last time at Epsom, and if he is back to his best then he should win the second day feature with some ease.

He looked a shadow of his former self in the Coronation Cup last time, and if that is the case then there is scope for significant profit.

Eminent was three quarters of a length behind Cracksman in the Derby last year and it is fair to say he has not progressed as well.

He beat Salouen, who gave Cracksman such a hard time at Epsom, with some ease at Deauville and ran a solid, if unspectacular race when third in the Irish Champion Stakes in September.

He has returned poorly this season, too, due to a fibrillating heart, but trainer Martyn Meade is a man who loves nothing better than heart-rate monitors and the latest kit and all the signs are that Eminent is back to his best. And over his troubles. The son of Frankel could run well at a big price.

THOMAS HOBSON

Gold Cup – Thursday

Thomas Hobson was not seen at his best when sixth in the Melbourne Cup in November. He did not pick up and really grab the bridle, and as a result he has been given the interim as time off.

The eight-year-old has run just five times over staying distances on the Flat, and narrowly failed to complete the Royal Ascot double last year when going down to Oriental Fox in the Queen Alexandra Stakes, having won the Ascot Stakes over the Gold Cup course with consummate ease.

There is scope for the gelding to improve over the marathon trip, and should some of the main players such as Order of St George, Vazirabad and Stradivarius falter he could well be staying on at the end to pick up the pieces.

NATALIE'S JOY

Albany Stakes – Friday

Mark Johnston's Natalie's Joy has a strong chance of winning the juvenile fillies contest, even without favorite Fairyland running below expectations.

The daughter of Lope de Vega absolutely pummeled her rivals into submission last month when running out a winner by six lengths at Goodwood. Her time on no better than good ground was just 0.07 seconds outside of subsequent Classic miler Bachir's long-standing juvenile record and 0.72 seconds faster than the older horse handicap also on the card.

She looked electric, and could be one to cause an upset of the Aidan O'Brien-trained market leader.

BOUND FOR NOWHERE

Diamond Jubilee – Saturday

From a personal point of view I think the Australian sprinter Redkirk Warrior has a massive chance of upsetting Harry Angel, the Godolphin favorite.

That said, the American raider Bound for Nowhere would not be totally out of calculations and could be primed to cause a huge upset.

He was a big colt last year when fourth behind Caravaggio, Harry Angel and Blue Point in the Commonwealth Cup and put in a monstrous performance when slamming King's Stand Stakes-bound and Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint fourth Bucchero last time at Keeneland.

That marks him out as an improved performer, and should Harry Angel blow out – he has yet to win in four starts at Ascot in his career -- trainer Wesley Ward could be looking at win number two in the race after Undrafted upset the supposed order three years ago.

ROYAL ASCOT PLAYBOOK

by Mark Johnson



Before an analysis of specific plays, I have tried to answer a few questions that I am regularly asked by handicappers in the United States about the Ascot track, its configuration and how “across the board” payouts work in Britain.

Ascot is a triangular right-handed, all turf, galloping track with a testing uphill finish. There is a straight mile course – used for races such as the Queen Anne Stakes and the Royal Hunt Cup – and a round mile course which is used for the St James’s Palace Stakes.

The straight course, which stages all the week’s sprint races run over five furlongs, six furlongs & seven furlongs (as well as straight mile races) is almost entirely gradually uphill, while the round course, which hosts all races from a round mile upwards is steeply uphill from seven furlongs out until joining the straight course just over a quarter-mile from home. A complete circuit of the round course is one and three-quarter miles.

All races on the straight course across the five days will have the starting gate positioned against the stands’ side (outer) rail which means that horses with a high post position will be against the rail. In a field of approximately 10 to 14 horses that would put the horse drawn one in the center of the racetrack.

In the huge field handicaps, such as the Wokingham Stakes (six furlongs) and the Royal Hunt Cup (straight mile) the runners will be spread right across the track.

Races beyond a mile and a half start on the straight course and then complete a full circuit of the round track. The run between the mile and a half gate and approximately 1m1f from home is steeply downhill. That three-furlong section can often result in front runners going too quick and inexperienced horses getting disorganized.

With regards to “across the board” payouts, be aware that Twinspires.com will use the British system of calculating which horses qualify for, as we would put it in the States, Place & Show payouts.

In Britain – wagers are either deemed to be “win” or “place,” however the place terms vary according to the number of runners and the type of race:

- two-four runners – win only bets, there is no place wagering.
- five-seven runners – a place wager pays on the first two horses home
- eight or more runners (in a non-handicap) – place wager pays on first three
- 16 + runners (only in a handicap) – place wagers pays on the first four

Also be aware that if there is a late scratch, which reduces the number of runners to the lower payout category - even if most of the horses have already been loaded into the gate – the lesser payout rule applies.

THE BLACKJACK SPLIT

In huge field races run on the straight course such as the Royal Hunt Cup (Wednesday) & the Wokingham (Saturday) it is usually a sensible play to effectively handicap them as two races.

First handicap the horses in the low half of the post-position draw, then handicap the horses in the high half of the post positions.

If you find a standout in both halves of the post positions play “The Blackjack Split” and back both as the races usually develop into two distinct groups.

For more exotic plays it could pay to play three box tickets - one loaded to high gates, one loaded to low gates and an amalgam ticket in the event of an even split across the track.

PLAY “THE FIELD”

As previously mentioned Twinspires.com pay out using the British Tote rules on horses “hitting the board,” but obviously the US tote systems only have a maximum of 24 betting interests. That means in races of more than 24 runners any horse numbered above 23 will be coupled as “The Field.” Often horses carrying light (bottom) weights in Royal Ascot handicaps run well so remember to play “The Field.”

DON'T IGNORE JUMPS FORM

In races such as the Ascot Handicap on Tuesday over two and a half miles and the 2m 5½f Queen Alexandra on Saturday, take a close look at horses with solid jumps form, over hurdles, in their past performances.

Especially take note of horses with form at the likes of Aintree (Ain), Cheltenham (Chm) & Punchestown (Pun(IRE)).

These races are ultimate stamina tests for flat horses and play to the extra conditioning jump horses receive.

INTERNATIONAL ATM

Arguably the best race at Royal Ascot for international runners is the King’s Stand Stakes over five furlongs on Tuesday.

Since 2000, eleven overseas-trained raiders have won coming from the US, Spain, Hong Kong, Australia, France & Ireland.

This year America is represented by last season’s winner Lady Aurelia and Breeders’ Cup Turf Sprint fourth Bucchero.

BEST RACE FOR THE CHALK

As at all major racing festivals around the world it is never easy to win any race but, at least statistically, the best race for playing The Chalk is the Coronation Stakes on Friday. The favorite has won the mile race 31 times in 72 runnings. The reason for that?

The Coronation Stakes is for the top three-year-old fillies over a mile and most of the runners have already raced against each other several times during the year thus establishing a clear pecking order. There are very few “new shooters” in a race like this.

PICK 4 FROM THE AMERICAN POINT OF VIEW

by Vance Hanson

Fans in the U.S. that have made Royal Ascot their own viewing and betting tradition over the last several years now have an exciting new way to take part in one of the racing world's great spectacles and most important meetings.

Every day of the five-day Royal Ascot meeting, Tuesday-Saturday (June 19-23), a Pick 4 wager will be offered to the betting public. The races included in the Pick 4 sequence will be determined at the final declaration stage for entries, 48 hours before race day. Each card consists of six races.

For players concerned about the prospect of sifting through one of those historic handicaps with cavalry-sized fields, there may be an effort for contests with 24 or more horses to be excluded in the wager. Therefore, the possibility exists that the Pick 4 races might not be sequential.

Regardless, this is a welcome and long overdue development for U.S. fans of British racing. While watching and betting on races at these historic venues has been available for years, connoisseurs of multi-race wagering have been essentially shut out playing these tracks in their preferred fashion.

Win and Place (top three) wagering will still be available, as will Exactas, Trifectas, and the Omni/Swinger (selecting two horses to finish in the top three in any order). However, those that find it easier or preferable to find potential winners in each race rather than guessing who the place-getters will be for the vertical exotics are in for a treat.

The Royal Ascot schedule varies little from year to year. Races tend to be run on the same day as they have been in previous years and occupy the same slot on the program. For example, the Queen Anne (G1) for older horses at one mile is always the first race of the meeting on Tuesday. The 2 1/2-mile Gold Cup (G1) is always the fourth race on Ladies Day (Thursday).

While it's too early to speculate what the Pick 4 sequence will be each day, that firm, orderly lineup of races at least gives bettors an idea of what they might be as well as a head start on researching the fields when initial entries are released, typically seven days out.

Budget management will be crucial as large fields, routinely bigger than the ones bettors are accustomed to seeing in the U.S., are, with some exceptions, assured. The variety of races themselves will pose a supreme test to the handicapper. From sprinters to stayers, from the classic generation to aged geldings with a few Royal meeting appearances already under their belts, every sequence will be a challenge.

Perhaps the biggest is if the Pick 4 happens to include any of the six Listed or Group stakes for juveniles. The average field size in those races in 2017 was around 19. Coming so early in the season, most of the entrants will have no more than a few runs (some none at all). Many will be cross-entered in other spots throughout the week, so researching too early might prove not only an arduous task but possibly futile if they are ultimately not declared at the final stage.

While it would be simple enough to single the Wesley Ward trainee(s) or spread only a little from there, keep in mind the stable was blanked in the juvenile races they participated in last year, with the average starting price in Britain of the winners being around 11-1. The "all button" is really no option in these situations. Pedigree research, replay viewing, and perhaps a little intuition will be essential for not only these type of races, but all of them in order to keep the ticket cost manageable.

The introduction of this wager should prove immensely popular. Close followers of European action with strong opinions might perceive they'll have a built-in edge. Perhaps they will, but anyone who is right figure to enjoy a huge payday.



FRENCH CAN GET ROYAL ASCOT OFF TO A FLYING START WITH RECOLETOS

by Nic Doggett



Ratings are not the be-all-and-end-all of everything in racing, however they provide a good indication of a horse's place in the hierarchy of equine talent. They are often an excellent pointer towards working out from where the best performances of Royal Ascot are likely to emerge.

In the absence of the very best horses from the rest of the world, notably Australia's super mare Winx and America's now-retired Gun Runner, Timeform's ratings ahead of Royal Ascot are dominated by the English-trained Battaash and Cracksman, both of whom have a rating of 136.

Cracksman was runner-up in both the English and Irish Derby, before winning his final three starts in 2017, namely the Great Voltigeur Stakes at York, Prix Niel at Chantilly and Champion Stakes at Ascot (most impressively, by seven lengths from Poet's Word).

He started the season well in the Prix Ganay at Longchamp and then stretched his unbeaten record to five when scrambling home against the well-ridden Salouen in the Coronation Cup at Epsom at the beginning of the month. He is very much the one to beat in the Prince of Wales's Stakes, now returned to the venue of his most authoritative performance to date.

Battaash, meanwhile, has entries in both the King's Stand Stakes on Tuesday, and the Diamond Jubilee Stakes – over a furlong further – on the Saturday of the meeting.

He secured a fourth win of a very successful 2017 campaign when blitzing the field in the Prix de l'Abbaye at Chantilly (beating Marsha by four lengths) and added another win on his reappearance, getting up late on in the Temple Stakes at Haydock (by a head from Washington DC) after missing the break.

The Wesley Ward-trained Lady Aurelia stormed clear in the King's Stand 12 months ago, with connections deciding to target the Nunthorpe Stakes at York in August rather than attempt a quick-fire double in the Diamond Jubilee directly after; incidentally, the last horse to complete the famous Ascot double was the Australian sprinter Choisir in 2003.

Lady Aurelia warmed up for the defense of her crown with a slightly disappointing defeat at Keeneland in April, but is expected to be cherry ripe for this assignment.

The 134-rated Enable was the leading three-year-old filly last season, but she suffered an injury setback last month so will miss Royal Ascot. There's a potential clash to savor among this year's crop of classic-generation fillies, though, with the winners of the English, Irish and French Guineas all set to run in the Coronation Stakes on Friday.

Billesdon Brook vastly improved when winning the 1000 Guineas at Newmarket (by one and three quarter lengths from subsequent Group 1 winner and Prix de Diane fancy Laurens), and her big price that day (66-1) may mean that the form is underestimated. Alpha Centauri resumed her progress when winning the Irish 1000 Guineas at the Curragh. Teppal, meanwhile, took the step up in grade in her stride after eight months off when winning the French 1000 Guineas at Longchamp.

All three are leading contenders, but they could have it all to do if **Clemmie** arrives here in peak form. She looked an excellent prospect when reeling off a hat-trick on her final three starts as a juvenile, and this daughter of leading sire Galileo left the impression she would come into her own over this longer trip aged three; Aidan O'Brien's filly looks sure to take plenty of beating if coming on as expected for last month's return at the Curragh.

Other fascinating clashes over the week include the likes of Stradivarius, Torcedor and Vazirabad taking dead aim at Order of St George in the Gold Cup on Thursday, with **Stradivarius** fancied to improve past the 2016 winner.

He was very progressive last season, his wins including the Queen's Vase at this meeting, and the fact that he was still full of running at the line when winning the Yorkshire Cup last month suggests that the longer trip by a whole six furlongs won't be a problem.

Perhaps the best value bet of the week, however, comes in the very first race of the meeting – the Queen Anne Stakes. It looks one of the most open renewals in recent years, with several you can make a legitimate case for, but the one that makes the most appeal is the French raider **Recoletos**. He was thought good enough to take on Cracksman in the Champion Stakes at the end of last season and has looked better than ever this year, making his breakthrough at Group 1 level in the Prix d'Ispahan at Longchamp (by one and three quarter lengths from Almodovar) last time. He remains unexposed at a mile, and is preferred to the Lockinge Stakes one-two Rhododendron and Lightning Spear.



Photo Courtesy of GBI Racing/Racingfotos.com

NORTH AMERICAN HORSES AT ASCOT

by Kellie Reilly

The stars and stripes will be waving at Royal Ascot, with a 13-strong squad led by course specialist Lady Aurelia. Not surprisingly, the emphasis is on the meeting's sprint events, and only two American-based runners are competing as far as a mile.

Here's a brief overview of Team USA – consider it as an appetizer ahead of the feast.

TUESDAY, JUNE 19

The Bill Mott-trained **YOSHIDA** offers a rooting interest in the curtain-raising Queen Anne (G1), now a "Win and You're In" for the Breeders' Cup Mile (G1). The Japanese-bred son of Heart's Cry and Grade 1 heroine Hilda's Passion compiled a promising sophomore campaign last season, but returned better than ever to upset Beach Patrol in the May 5 Old Forester Turf Classic (G1) on Kentucky Derby Day.

Two races later in the King's Stand (G1), defending champion **LADY AURELIA** looks to extend her record to a perfect three-for-three over this track and five-furlong trip. The Wesley Ward filly dazzled here in the 2016 Queen Mary (G2) at two and in last year's King's Stand over older males, but has to reassert herself after dropping her last three. Compatriot **BUCCHERO** takes his game abroad for the first time for fellow Indiana-bred Tim Glyshaw. Although winless since last October's Woodford S. (G2) at Keeneland, the consistent type had Lady Aurelia behind him when he was fourth in the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (G1).

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20

Ward has won the Queen Mary three times with precocious juvenile fillies, and Keeneland debut romper **CHELSEA CLOISTERS** appears to have the speed to give him a fourth in the Wednesday opener.

Stablemate **HEMP HEMP HURRAY** bookends the card in the concluding Jersey S. (G3) for three-year-olds over seven furlongs. An 11 3/4-length conqueror of Turfway Park's Animal Kingdom S. last out, he'll try to give Ken and Sarah Ramsey a long-coveted Royal Ascot victory. That's why he's likelier for this spot than his alternative target in a Friday Group 1.

Ward also plans to send out multiple stakes-winning four-year-old **MASTER MERION** in the Royal Hunt Cup, a heritage handicap down the straight mile course.

THURSDAY, JUNE 21

The five-furlong Norfolk (G2) has added intrigue as a "Win and You're In" for the inaugural Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint. Ward's filly **SHANG SHANG SHANG**, a ready winner over stablemate **MOONLIGHT ROMANCE** in their mutual unveiling at Keeneland, is expected to line up versus the boys. Moonlight Romance subsequently dominated a Belmont Park maiden in her turf debut, looking like a natural on the surface, and her Royal Ascot placement is reportedly to be determined by Ramsey.

FRIDAY, JUNE 22

Yet to win the Albany (G3), a six-furlong event for two-year-old fillies, Ward has set **STILLWATER COVE** for the task after she just held on in her Keeneland premiere.

Todd Pletcher fields a contender for the Commonwealth Cup (G1), the meet's marquee race for sophomore sprinters, in **GIDU**. Zayat Stables' Irish-bred son of Frankel warmed up for the challenge with a score in Belmont's Paradise Creek.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23

Ward has the grand finale covered with runners in three events. **OUR PASSION**, successful in her debut on the Belmont turf, will aim to become his third winner of the Windsor Castle.

BOUND FOR NOWHERE seeks the Diamond Jubilee (G1), a "Win and You're In" for the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint. Fourth in last year's Commonwealth Cup, he streaked clear of Bucchero in the Shakertown (G2) in his latest.

Finally, Ward's 2015 Diamond Jubilee hero **UNDRAFTED** returns to the scene of his greatest triumph. But this time, the eight-year-old tries his luck in a heritage handicap, the course-and-distance Wokingham.



Yoshida winning the Old Forester Turf Classic (G1) at Churchill Downs.

ROYAL ASCOT GROUP RACE HISTORIES

TUESDAY

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2017	Ribchester	1st Lockinge S.
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
2012	Frankel	1st Lockinge
2011	Canford Cliffs	1st Lockinge
2010	Goldikova (f)	1st Prix d'Ispahan
2009	Paco Boy	4th Lockinge
2008	Haradasun	6th Lockinge
2007	Ramonti	2nd Lockinge

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2017	Lady Aurelia	1st Giant's Causeway S. (US)
2016	Profitable	1st Temple
2015	Goldream	7th Temple
2014	Sole Power	1st Palace House
2013	Sole Power	4th Temple
2012	Little Bridge	1st Sprint Cup (HK)
2011	Prohibit	2nd Prix du Gros-Chene
2010	Equiano	2nd Temple
2009	Scenic Blast	1st Newmarket H. (Aus)
2008	Equiano	2nd Prix du Gros-Chene
2007	Miss Andretti (f)	1st Newmarket H. (Aus)

COVENTRY (G2), 2YO, SIX FURLONGS

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
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
2012	Dawn Approach	1st Rochestown
2011	Power	1st Marble Hill
2010	Strong Suit	1st Newbury maiden
2009	Canford Cliffs	1st Newbury maiden
2008	Art Connoisseur	1st Newmarket conditions
2007	Henrythenavigator	1st Gowran maiden

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
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
2012	Most Improved	14th French Derby
2011	Frankel	1st 2000 Guineas
2010	Canford Cliffs	1st Irish 2000 Guineas
2009	Mastercraftsman	1st Irish 2000 Guineas
2008	Henrythenavigator	1st Irish 2000 Guineas
2007	Excellent Art	4th French 2000 Guineas

WEDNESDAY

JERSEY (G3), 3YO, SEVEN FURLONGS

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2017	Le Brivido	2nd Poule d'Essai des Poulains
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
2012	Ishvana (f)	2nd Irish 1000 Guineas
2011	Strong Suit	6th Greenham
2010	Rainfall (f)	2nd Sandy Lane
2009	Ouqba	11th 2000 Guineas
2008	Aqlaam	1st Newbury maiden
2007	Tariq	1st King Charles II

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2017	Qemah	2nd Chartwell Fillies' S.
2016	Usherette	1st Dahlia
2015	Amazing Maria	3rd Lanwades
2014	Integral	2nd Dahlia
2013	Duntle	1st Amethyst
2012	Joviality	2nd Princess Elizabeth
2011	Lolly for Dolly	2nd Equestrian (=Lanwades)
2010	Strawberrydaiquiri	1st Dahlia
2009	Spacious	3rd Princess Elizabeth
2008	Sabana Perdida	1st Chartwell Fillies'
2007	Nannina	3rd Princess Elizabeth

continued from previous page

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2017	Heartache	1st Bath novice
2016	Lady Aurelia	1st Keeneland maiden (US)
2015	Acapulco	3rd Churchill maiden (US)
2014	Anthem Alexander	1st Tipperary maiden
2013	Rizeena	1st National
2012	Ceiling Kitty	1st Marygate
2011	Best Terms	1st Newbury conditions
2010	Maqasid	1st Sandown maiden
2009	Jealous Again	2nd Kentucky Juvenile (US)
2008	Langs Lash	2nd Marygate
2007	Elletelle	1st Leopardstown maiden

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2017	Highand Reel	1st Coronation Cup
2016	My Dream Boat	5th Prix d'Ispahan
2015	Free Eagle	Layoff since October
2014	The Fugue (f)	11th Dubai Duty Free (UAE)
2013	Al Kazeem	1st Tattersalls Gold Cup
2012	So You Think	1st Tattersalls Gold Cup
2011	Rewilding	1st Dubai Sheema Classic (UAE)
2010	Byword	2nd Prix d'Ispahan
2009	Vision d'Etat	1st Prix Ganay
2008	Duke of Marmalade	1st Tattersalls Gold Cup
2007	Manduro	1st Prix d'Ispahan

THURSDAY

NORFOLK (G2), 2YO, FIVE FURLONGS

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2017	Sioux Nation	6th Marble Hill S.
2016	Prince of Lir	1st Brian Yeardley
2015	Waterloo Bridge	1st Tipperary maiden
2014	Baitha Alga	1st Woodcote
2013	No Nay Never	1st Keeneland maiden (US)
2012	Reckless Abandon	1st Doncaster maiden
2011	Bapak Chinta	1st Hamilton maiden
2010	Approve	4th Woodcote
2009	Radiohead	1st Bath novice
2008	South Central	1st Carlisle maiden
2007	Winker Watson	1st Newbury maiden

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2017	Coronet	5th Epsom Oaks
2016	Even Song	3rd Pretty Polly
2015	Curvy	1st Gallinule
2014	Bracelet	14th 1000 Guineas
2013	Riposte	1st Newmarket maiden
2012	Princess Highway	1st Blue Wind
2011	Banimpire	1st Noblesse
2010	Hibaayeb	3rd Prix Saint-Alary
2009	Flying Cloud	1st Prix Cleopatre
2008	Michita	7th Oaks
2007	Silkwood	1st Sandown handicap

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2017	Benbatl	5th Epsom Derby
2016	Hawkbill	1st Newmarket S.
2015	Time Test	1st London Gold Cup (h'cap)
2014	Cannock Chase	1st London Gold Cup (h'cap)
2013	Remote	1st Doncaster handicap
2012	Energizer	4th German 2000 Guineas
2011	Pisco Sour	9th Derby
2010	Afsare	1st Doncaster conditions
2009	Glass Harmonium	6th Dante
2008	Collection	1st York handicap
2007	Zaham	1st Epsom handicap

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2017	Big Orange	1st Henry II S.
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
2012	Colour Vision	1st Sagaro
2011	Fame and Glory	1st Saval Beg
2010	Rite of Passage	3rd Cheltenham hurdle
2009	Yeats	6th Vintage Crop
2008	Yeats	1st Vintage Crop
2007	Yeats	1st Saval Beg

FRIDAY

ALBANY (G3), 2YO FILLIES, SIX FURLONGS

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
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
2012	Newfangled	1st Newmarket maiden
2011	Samitar	3rd Newmarket maiden
2010	Memory	1st Goodwood maiden
2009	Habaayib	1st Nottingham maiden
2008	Cuis Ghaire	1st Fillies' Sprint at Naas
2007	Nijoom Dubai	3rd Folkestone maiden

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2017	Permian	10th Epsom 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)
2012	Thomas Chippendale	1st Newmarket handicap
2011	Nathaniel	2nd Chester Vase
2010	Monterosso	1st Newmarket handicap
2009	Father Time	2nd Fairway
2008	Campanologist	3rd Lingfield Derby Trial
2007	Boscobel	1st Glasgow

COMMONWEALTH CUP (G1), 3YO, SIX FURLONGS

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2017	Caravaggio	1st Lacken S.
2016	Quiet Reflection (f)	1st Sandy Lane
2015	Muhaarar	8th French 2000 Guineas

SATURDAY

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2017	Idaho	6th Coronation Cup
2016	Dartmouth	1st Ormonde
2015	Snow Sky	1st Yorkshire Cup
2014	Telescope	2nd Huxley
2013	Thomas Chippendale	2nd Buckhounds
2012	Sea Moon	1st Tapster
2011	Await the Dawn	1st Huxley
2010	Harbinger	1st Ormonde
2009	Bronze Cannon	1st Jockey Club
2008	Macarthur	3rd Coronation Cup
2007	Maraahel	3rd Coronation Cup

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
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
2012	Fallen for You	6th Chartwell Fillies'
2011	Immortal Verse	1st Prix de Sandringham
2010	Lillie Langtry	5th Irish 1000 Guineas
2009	Ghanaati	1st 1000 Guineas
2008	Lush Lashes	5th Oaks
2007	Indian Ink	5th 1000 Guineas

QUEEN'S VASE (G2), 3YO, 1 3/4 MILES (PREVIOUSLY 2 MILES)

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2017	Stradivarius	2nd Chester handicap
2016	Sword Fighter	3rd Naas race
2015	Aloft	Layoff since October
2014	Hartnell	2nd Lingfield Derby Trial
2013	Leading Light	1st Gallinule
2012	Estimate (f)	1st Salisbury maiden
2011	Namibian	3rd Edinburgh Cup (h'cap)
2010	Mikhail Glinka	3rd Ballysax
2009	Holberg	3rd Glasgow
2008	Patkai	1st Haydock handicap
2007	Mahler	11th Derby

DIAMOND JUBILEE (G1), 4YO/UP, SIX FURLONGS

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2017	The Tin Man	5th Duke of York S.
2016	Twilight Son	5th Duke of York
2015	Undrafted	2nd TwinSpires Turf Sprint (US)
2014	Slade Power	1st Greenlands
2013	Lethal Force	2nd Duke of York
2012	Black Caviar	1st Goodwood (Aus)
2011	Society Rock	2nd Haydock conditions
2010	Starspangledbanner	5th Duke of York
2009	Art Connoisseur	7th European Free H.
2008	Kingsgate Native	10th King's Stand
2007	Soldier's Tale	3rd John of Gaunt

TRAINER & JOCKEY TRENDS

THE TRAINERS TO LOOK OUT FOR

With 94 Royal Ascot winners between them since 2008, Aidan O'Brien, Sir Michael Stoute, John Gosden and Mark Johnston are four trainers to look out for, with O'Brien showing a clear level +£25 stakes profit with all runners during the last 10 years.

AIDAN O'BRIEN

Royal Ascot tally last five years:

2017: 6-36

2016: 7-26

2015: 5-18

2014: 2-25

2013: 4-26

Best races (all-time): Coventry Stakes (8); St James's Palace Stakes (7); Gold Cup (7); Queen's Vase (5); Chesham Stakes (4); Jersey Stakes (3); Queen Anne Stakes (3); Prince of Wales's Stakes (3); Coronation Stakes (3); Hardwicke Stakes (3); Norfolk Stakes (3); Tercentenary Stakes (2); Ribblesdale Stakes (2)

Aidan O'Brien's numbers have grown here in recent years, with an army of 36 runners in 2017 producing another six winners, taking his tally over the last three Royal Meetings to 18 winners.

As for the areas in which O'Brien delivered, then avoiding his Group One runners and sticking to just **Group Two/Group Three/Listed races** showed at 22-127 (+£61), while those arriving in form having been **beaten no more than four lengths last time** struck at 34-149 (+£57). Checking the odds of O'Brien's performers is also key, for those in the **13/2 to 20/1** bracket offered value at 10-95 (+£38).

JOHN GOSDEN

2017: 2-31

2016: 2-22

2015: 2-18

2014: 4-18

2013: 1-18

Best races: Prince of Wales's Stakes (3); Britannia Stakes (3); King Edward VII Stakes (3); Wolferton Stakes (3); Jersey Stakes (2); Windsor Forest Stakes (2); Tercentenary Stakes (2); Coronation Stakes (2); Chesham Stakes (2); Royal Hunt Cup (2); Ribblesdale Stakes (2)

It's not often John Gosden leaves the Royal Meeting without at least a double, and the Newmarket handler is always a man to respect when teaming up with **William Buick** (11-61, +£28), while his **two-year-olds and four-year-olds** returned a healthy 11-56 (+£38). It also helped in sticking with Gosden's realistic chances at **12/1 or shorter:** 20-100 (+£39), along with his runners **not moving up in trip:** 17-106 (+£20).

SIR MICHAEL STOUTE

2017: 0-13

2016: 2-15

2015: 1-17

2014: 4-14

2013: 3-16

Best races: Hardwicke Stakes (10); King Edward VII Stakes (7); Duke of Edinburgh Stakes (5); King George V Stakes (4); Coronation Stakes (4); Queen's Vase (4); Windsor Forest Stakes (3); Jersey Stakes (3); Ribblesdale Stakes (2); Wolferton Stakes (2); Queen Alexandra Stakes (2); Tercentenary Stakes (2)

It was a rare blank for Sir Michael Stoute here 12 months ago, but it's hard to think he'll leave empty-handed again, with races like the **Hardwicke Stakes** and **King Edward VII Stakes** having provided 17 winners alone. Stoute also excelled with his **four-year-olds** here at 12-53 (+£23), while those who arrived at Royal Ascot from **Epsom, Goodwood, Newbury or York** connected at 10-49 (+£24).

MARK JOHNSTON

2017: 2-22

2016: 0-20

2015: 2-20

2014: 2-19

2013: 0-19

Best races: Queen's Vase (7); King George V Stakes (4); Hardwicke Stakes (4); Ascot Gold Cup (3); Chesham Stakes (3); Duke of Edinburgh Stakes (3); King Edward VII Stakes (3); Sandringham Handicap (2); Queen Alexandra Stakes (2)



Mark Johnston has been a regular on the royal scoreboard for decades, and the one major clue to his runners hitting the target are their odds, with each of his 13 winners since 2008 having returned at **14/1 or shorter** (13-73, +£34), compared to those bigger at 0-127.

Gradually making his way up the Ascot leaderboard is the American trainer, **Wesley Ward**, who offers excellent value to punters courtesy of a 9-47 record (+£19), including the 20/1 winner, Con Te Partiro, 12 months ago.

Saeed Bin Suroor is next in the table and is respected in races such as the Queen Anne Stakes (7 wins), Ascot Gold Cup (5) and Ribblesdale Stakes (5). Suroor was on the scoresheet in the 2017 Hampton Court with Benbatl, but having sent out a total of just under 50 losers either side of Benbatl sends out a word of caution. It might also be worth trading carefully with Willie Haggas's runners here, as they struck just once from 82 runners since 2011.

One trainer who did end a drought at this meeting in 2017 was **James Fanshawe**, whose four winners here since 2008 all moved up in class at Ascot (4-19 +33), while **Willie Mullins** also entered the winner's enclosure 12 months ago with Thomas Hobson in the Ascot Stakes at 4/1 – all of Mullins's five winners returned at 8/1 or shorter (5-15 +£12).

THE JOCKEYS TO LOOK OUT FOR

RYAN MOORE

2017: 6-30

2016: 6-29

2015: 9-29

2014: 6-29

2013: 3-29

Best races (all-time): Hardwicke Stakes (4); Duke of Edinburgh Stakes (3); Ascot Stakes (3); Queen of Alexandra Stakes (3); Tercentenary Stakes (2); Queen's Vase (3); Chesham Stakes (3); Britannia Stakes (2); Wolferton Stakes (2); Gold Cup (2); Ribblesdale Stakes (2); Coventry Stakes (2); Norfolk Stakes (2); Coronation Stakes (2)

With another six winners here 12 months ago, Ryan Moore's tally during the last four Royal Ascots now stands at 28 winners. Moore's portfolio of winning big races is growing too, with last year seeing a third victory in the Ascot Stakes – all of which came for **Willie Mullins**.

Moore also has a strong association here with **Aidan O'Brien** (30-135 +£17), while punters can rely on him when partnering a fancied selection at **8/1 or shorter**, where his record is 44-182 (+£30).

As for other clues pinpointing Moore's strengths at this meeting, then the following criteria is worth looking out for:

Round Course: 30-135 (+£22)

Beaten a neck to 5/1 last time: 19-100 (+£35); those that won last time offered poor value at 24-120 (-£21)

WILLIAM BUICK

2017: 4-24

2016: 2-26

2015: 2-22

2014: 3-26

2013: 1-23

Best races: King Edward VII Stakes (3), Duke of Edinburgh Stakes (2)

William Buick recorded his second-best tally of four winners here 12 months ago, two of which came for **Charlie Appleby** at odds of 20/1 and 16/1. Buick's record for **John Gosden** reads better at 11-61 (+£28), though, while the biggest clue was found via those **Buick rode last time** out at 17-106 (+£47) – runners Buick didn't ride prior to Ascot were 2-87 (-£69).

FRANKIE DETTORI

2017: N/A

2016: 4-23

2015: 3-20

2014: 2-21

2013: 0-20

Best races: Queen Anne Stakes (6); Ribblesdale Stakes (6); Ascot Gold Cup (5); Chesham Stakes (4); Sandringham Handicap (4); King Edward

VII Stakes (4); Norfolk Stakes (3); Prince of Wales's Stakes (3); Royal Hunt Cup (2); Queen's Vase (2); Queen Mary Stakes (2); St James's Palace Stakes (2)

You can't discuss Ascot without mentioning Frankie Dettori, who is still riding to a very high standard and scooping the big races. Having missed last year's meeting, Dettori will be keen to get back on the scoreboard, and should be noted when riding in all the major races – his record away from Listed/Group races is just 1-48.

He also rode a couple winners for **Wesley Ward** (2-6 +£12) and **Richard Hannon** (2-8 +£8), while those **Dettori rode last time** won here at 11-76 (+£31).

JAMIE SPENCER

2017: 2-18

2016: 1-16

2015: 1-16

2014: 0-19

2013: 2-26

Best races: Albany Stakes (4); Britannia Stakes (3); Coventry Stakes (2); Sandringham Handicap (2)

The 2017 Royal Meeting once again demonstrated Jamie Spencer's effectiveness on the famous **Straight Course** (9-98 +£23), partnering both Bless Him (25/1) and Con Te Partiro (20/1) to success – Spencer's record on the Round Course is just 2-71 (-£65). One of the aforementioned winners also came for **David Simcock** (2-17 +£13), while Spencer also has a better record with the younger **2-3yo horses** (9-90 +£20).

Just three winners behind Spencer on the leaderboard is **James Doyle**, whose record during the first two days of the meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday stands at 7-44 (+£42), compared to Thursday, Friday and Saturday (1-75 -£69).

Elsewhere, **Adam Kirby** followed up his 2016 treble here by riding the winner of the Queen Mary 12 months ago for Clive Cox, for whom he has a record of 5-29 (+£16).

Another jockey enjoying a good partnership here is **Joe Fanning** for Mark Johnston, with his most profitable distances being 1m4f+ (6-34 +£22), though **Silvestre De Silva** enjoyed less luck here at 3-106 (-£54).

RACECOURSE FORM

It is crucial to consider horses with form last time out at courses such as Ascot, Newmarket, Newbury, Epsom, York and the Curragh. Together those courses have provided 138 royal winners between them during the last 10 years, though the fact they returned a level stakes loss means a touch more digging is required.

Newmarket form

When considering a runner that ran at Newmarket (Rowley) last time, make sure they are fancied at Ascot in the **10/1 or shorter** bracket, as they delivered at 30-170 (+£24).

continued from previous page

Epsom form

With the Epsom Derby meeting staged just weeks prior to the Royal Meeting, it's no surprise that 24 Ascot winners arrived via that route during the last 10 years. As with Newmarket runners, the biggest pointer came via the market, as plenty of Epsom runners were sent here with unrealistic chances, but concentrating purely on those at **16/1 or shorter** returned 22-146 (+£42).

Newbury form

It paid to keep things simple when studying a runner from Newbury last time, as those **that ran in a handicap at Newbury** delivered at Ascot to the tune of 8-68 (+£37).

Curragh form

Runners crossing the Irish Sea and heading to Ascot from the Curragh supplied the second most winners at the meeting since 2008. As for those punters should look out for, then in-form performers that **made the top two at the Curragh** struck at 24-118 (+£63).

THE DRAW

The draw is always a major talking point across the five days, during which time the big-field events staged on the Straight Course cause punters headaches. It may therefore prove worthwhile looking at the stats from the last five years of this fixture to see if there were any trends – more so the 'live' clues which can develop as the week develops, as a race like the Royal Hunt Cup (1m) may influence what happens in the Britannia over the same trip.

Straight Course

High numbers featured more so last year when the fast ground returned, but overall there were a mixed bag of results. Possibly the best approach could be in siding with those **very high or very low in big fields with 25+ runners**, and ignoring those drawn in the centre. In fact, splitting the 25-runner+ fields from the last 10 years shows a clear bias towards those on either flank (low or high).

25-runner+ races 2008-2017

Lowest stalls: 12-271 (4% -£75)

Centre stalls: 13-570 (2% -£280)

Highest stalls: 15-263 (6% +£14)

Clearly, despite having the smallest number of qualifiers, the **highest quarter of stalls** (for instance, stalls 19-24 in a 24-runner race) provided the best strike-rate for a clear profit.

Round course (1m2f/1m4f)

As for distances on the round course over 1m2f-1m4f, then **double-figure stalls** dominated, with runners fanning out down the middle in an attempt to avoid getting caught on the inside (low stalls). This became more pronounced in bigger fields, as can be seen:

16+ runner fields

Stalls 1-9: 1 win

Stalls 10-22: 12 wins



TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



QUEEN ANNE STAKES

Queen Anne Stakes (Group 1)

1 Mile

PURSE \$874,000

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	Accidental Agent	30-1
2	Beat the Bank	15-1
3	Benbatl	4-1
4	Century Dream	20-1
5	Deauville	15-1
6	Lightning Spear	7-1
7	Limato	15-1
8	Lord Glitters	15-1
9	Oh This Is Us	50-1
10	Recoletos	5-1
11	So Beloved	30-1
12	Suedois	20-1
13	Yoshida	15-1
14	Zonderland	30-1
15	Rhododendron	5-1

TOP PICKS	
10	Recoletos
3	Benbatl
14	Rhododendrum
\$20 Win	
10	(\$20)
\$4 EXACTAS	
3, 6, 7, 14	over 10 (\$20)
\$1 TRIFECTA BOX	
3, 6, 7, 10, 14	(\$60)

powered by brisnet.com

You got to love a meet that kicks off with a group one stakes race and sets the stage for five days of glorious racing.

Recoletos has the look of a soft-turf specialist but he has a couple of things going for him. Two wins in two starts in France this year including a group one win going nine furlongs last out and a decent fourth here last October going 10 furlongs behind superstar Cracksman when only a neck behind Highland Reel. He shows a win on "good" turf going left-handed last year and has a decent pedigree for firm ground since his second dam won the Garden City Stakes G2 at Belmont Park on firm ground in her only American start. Oliver Peslier will drop him back and look for a seam to rally through.

Benbatl made the transition from three to four brilliantly with four superb starts on the turf at Meydan including a big win in the Dubai Turf G1 going nine furlongs in very fast time. The Boys in Blue are off to a good start this year and the son of Dubawi picks up Christophe Soumillon.

Aidan O'Brien looks to kick off his 2018 Royal Ascot invasion with the classy Rhododendron who seems to be able to handle any circumstance. She was flying up the rail against older foes in the Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf G1 after drawing wide and already has two group one wins going this distance. Post and ground will not be a problem with Ryan Moore who is 7 for 23 the past week.

Limato is a sprinter that might stretch out to a mile on firmer turf and Lightning Spear just missed in his first start of the year and should be ready for a big effort second up.

TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



QUEEN'S VASE STAKES

Queen Anne Stakes (Group 2)

1 3/4 Miles

PURSE \$270,000

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS	TOP PICKS
1	Almoghared	15-1	8 Nelson
2	Drapers Guild	15-1	11 Stream of Stars
3	Dubai Empire	50-1	5 Key Gardens
4	Jeremiah	20-1	9 Southern France
5	Kew Gardens	5-2	
6	King's Proctor	20-1	\$20 Win
7	Lynwood Gold	20-1	8 (\$20)
8	Nelson	5-1	
9	Southern France	5-2	\$10 EXACTAS
10	Sovereign Duke	30-1	5, 9, 11 over 8 (\$30)
11	Stream of Stars	4-1	
12	Yabass	30-1	\$5 TRIFECTA BOX
			5, 8, 11 (\$30)

powered by **brisnet.com**

Aidan O'Brien has three in here but we will go with the less fancied Nelson. He won on heavy ground in his first start of the year against group three company then tired last out on better ground. Son of Frankel is out of a group one stakes-winning dam that won the Irish Oaks G1 going 1 ½ miles. Donnacha O'Brien will probably put him in front and he has enough class to see the trip out. Aidan's son is winning at an amazing 40% clip (14 for 35) the past two weeks.

Stream Of Stars is moving up in class off a win here going 1 ½ miles to break his maiden. Son of the long-winded Sea the Stars is out of a dam by Sadlers Wells that won a group two stakes race at 1 ¼ miles and he gets Frankie Dettori back aboard. He has tactical speed and Frankie will try to get first run on the leaders. John Gosden is 10 for 30 the past two weeks.

Kew Gardens is another from Aidan O'Brien and this son of Galileo gets Ryan Moore. He was used in the pace in the Epsom Derby G1 but ran well in a Derby Trial at Lingfield on good turf. O'Brien passed up the major tests for this and he might have an edge but figures to take too much money with Moore aboard.

Southern France broke his maiden two starts back going 1 ½ miles then came back to win at 11 furlongs. Donnacha O'Brien gets off to ride the top choice so Seamie Heffernan gets the mount.

TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



ASCOT GOLD CUP

Ascot Gold Cup (Group 1)

2 1/2 Miles

PURSE \$675,000

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	Max Dynamite	20-1
2	Order of St George	9-5
3	Scotland	60-1
4	Sheikhzayedroad	20-1
5	Torcedor	8-1
6	Vazirabad	9-2
7	Desert Skyline	12-1
8	Mount Moriah	30-1
9	Stradivarius	2-1

TOP PICKS	
6	Vazirabad
2	Order of St George
1	Max Dynamite
\$20 Win	
6	(\$20)
\$20 EXACTA BOX	
2, 6	(\$40)
\$5 TRIFECTA	
6 with 2 with 1	(\$5)
2 with 6 with 1	(\$5)

powered by **brisnet.com**

Vazirabad can go over \$3 million in earnings today and he did it all the hard way at the marathon distances. After a first run, he won the Dubai Gold Cup G2 at Meydan going two miles in fast time for the second year in a row. Given a 57-day break by Alain De Royer-Dupre, he came back and won going 1 7/8 miles on good to soft turf at ParisLongchamp by a well-earned neck as he did just enough. He probably would be at his best with some give to the ground but sports a solid record on good going. Son of the long-winded Manduro has been first 15 times and second 5 times in 22 lifetime starts and shows no sign of slowing down at the age of six. The incomparable Christophe Soumillon rides as usual.

Order of St. Georges won this race in 2016 then was second last year. He shows two wins to get ready against short fields in Ireland but this is the target. Another who could go over \$3 million in earnings with a win, the son of Galileo has been able to handle softer ground better than firm and the race will evolve into a tactical chess match that might force Ryan Moore to move sooner than he wants.

Willie Mullins riding William Buick going long on the turf – where to I sign up? Max Dynamite has been all over the world and shows a third in the Melbourne Cup G1 last November going two miles on good ground when he ran into traffic from post two in a 23-runner field. He has had two hurdle races then a group two going 1 3/4 miles on the flat to prep for this.

TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



CORONATION STAKES

Coronation Stakes (Group 1)

1 Mile

PURSE \$727,500

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	Adorable	20-1
2	Aim of Artemis	20-1
3	Alpha Centauri	7-2
4	Anna Nerium	15-1
5	Billesden Brook	5-1
6	Capla Temptress	12-1
7	Clemmie	3-1
8	Coeur De Beaute	10-1
9	Nkosikazi	99-1
10	Teppal	5-1
11	Threading	15-1
12	Veracious	15-1
13	Whitefountainfairy	20-1

TOP PICKS	
8	Coeur de Beaute
7	Clemmie
3	Alpha Centauri
5	Billesdon Brook

\$20 Win

8 (\$20)

\$10 EXACTA

8 with 3, 5, 7, 10 (\$40)

\$5 TRIFECTA

8 with 3, 5, 7, 10 with 3, 5, 7, 10 (\$30)

powered by [brisnet.com](https://www.brisnet.com)

In what looks to be an evenly matched group of 13 3yo fillies going a mile around a right-hand turn, Coeur de Beaute won a group three stakes races to get her season going then missed by a neck from post 14 going a mile in the 1,000 Guineas G1 at ParisLongchamp. That post is very hard to overcome at that distance there and she showed she can get a mile after sprinting her juvenile season. Stephane Pasquier will drop her back early and make one, wide run that should be enough.

Clemmie is a beautifully-bred daughter of Galileo -are there any other – that won a group one stakes race on soft turf going six furlongs last year at Newmarket then made her seasonal debut going a mile for the first time and Seamie Heffernan didn't race her hard at the finish so the race looks worse on paper than it really was. Ryan Moore picks up the mount.

Alpha Centauri was an upset winner of the Irish 1,000 Guineas G1 in her second start of the year and she seemed to move up on good ground. From the female family of the great Miesque, she draws perfectly for a stalking trip. Billesdon Brook upset the 1,000 Guineas G1 at 66 to 1 and did it pretty convincingly. Richard Hannon and his father have always been tough at this meet and she was a group three stakes winner going seven furlongs last year. Teppal ships back from France where she won the French 1,000 Guineas for Olivier Peslier.

TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



DIAMOND JUBILEE STAKES

Diamond Jubilee Stakes (Group 1)

6 Furlongs

PURSE \$810,000

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	Bound for Nowhere	8-1
2	City Light	10-1
3	D'Bai	30-1
4	Harry Angel	5-2
5	Intelligence Cross	99-1
6	Librisa Breeze	12-1
7	Merchant Navy	3-1
8	Projection	20-1
9	Redkirk Warrior	5-1
10	Sir Dancealot	30-1
11	Spirit of Valor	30-1
12	The Tin Man	7-1

TOP PICKS	
9	Redkirk Warrior
11	Spirit of Valor
7	Merchant Navy
\$20 Win	
9	(\$20)
\$10 EXACTA	
9 with 11, 7, 12, 4	(\$40)
\$5 EXACTA	
11, 7, 12, 4 with 9	(\$20)

powered by [brisnet.com](https://www.brisnet.com)

Redkirk Warrior ships in from Australia and we have seen how well their sprinters have done here over the years. 7yo gelding won a group one sprint down the straightaway at Flemington two starts back in February when he beat Redzel, inaugural winner of the Everest Challenge. He came back there with a nose victory over Merchant Navy who came back to win his European debut for Aidan O'Brien last out in an Irish Group three. Oldtimers usually come back well after a freshening and he should be the one to beat with Frankie Dettori.

Spirit of Valor is the "Other Aidan O'Brien" in here. He was a good 3yo and looks like he progressed last out when he almost pulled off an upset over his stablemate. Son of War Front has some speed and should be up near the leaders with Donnacha O'Brien. Firm ground should suit.

Merchant Navy won five of six in Australia last year including a group one stakes win at Flemington. He switched to the Aidan O'Brien barn and promptly won by a length and will be the horse to beat in here at a short price. The Tin Man just keeps firing bullets and won this race by a neck last year for James Fanshawe. He won his seasonal debut and should be ready for a prime effort today. Harry Angel could be the best in Europe but seems to do his best racing over softer turf than today.

twinspires.com™

BET ANYWHERE!

DOWNLOAD THE TWINSPIRES APP
SIGN UP FOR A \$100 BONUS!*

SELECT TRACK

1

CHOOSE WAGER TYPE/AMOUNT

2

SELECT RUNNER

3

4

CLICK 'BET'



OFFICIAL BETTING PARTNER OF THE
BREEDERS' CUP AND KENTUCKY DERBY



*See TwinSpire.com for full details.