

## ROYAL ASCOT PREVIEW DAY ONE TUESDAY

### **2.30 QUEEN ANNE (Gr 1, 1m)**

- 1. ACCIDENTAL AGENT** - Won this race in 2018. In poor form. Goes well at Ascot but unlikely.
- 2. BLESS HIM** - Consistent Group 2 / Group 3 horse. Generally needs softer ground.
- 3. LOPE Y FERNANDEZ (UAE)** - A very talented horse that has the ability to be competitive here. Can overlook last start on soft ground - will go better on top of the ground. Has a very good turn of foot. Place chance.
- 4. LORD GLITTERS** - Won this race in 2018. Was in great form in Dubai over the carnival. Well beaten behind Palace Pier in the Lockinge. Place chance back to Ascot and on top of the ground.
- 5. ORDER OF AUSTRALIA** - Not quite sure what to make of him - was tried over 10f most of last year then dropped back to a mile when he won the BC Mile at very long odds, then failed to live up to that form in HK. Aiden's generally take a run - Ryan Moore rides so possibly first pick of the yard.
- 6. PALACE PIER** - Easily the best horse in the field only beaten once on very heavy ground. Only slightly query is the Good to firm ground but this shouldn't be an issue. Should win.
- 7. POGO (UAE)** - Underrated horse. Not the worst and a place chance on his best form.
- 8. PRINCE EIJI** - Should be outclassed at this level.
- 9. REGAL REALITY** - Very talented gelding who has his quirks. Trainer would not run her first up for no reason. Place chance.
- 10. SIR BUSKER (UAE)** - Talented handicapper - big step up in class but has good Ascot form.
- 11. TOP RANK (UAE)** - Underrated horse. Progressed from handicapper to Group horse last season. Very good in the Lockinge. Place chance.

Pace: Not a lot of pace on paper. Likely to come down the centre. Suspect middle to high draws an advantage.

### **3.05 COVENTRY STAKES (Gr 2, 6f)**

- 1. ANGEL BLUE** - Looks like he needs 7f+. Won well enough last start on soft ground but was slowly away and off the bridle early before staying on best.
- 2. BERKSHIRE SHADOW (HK)** - Very good debut at Newbury in April and the form worked out well. Long time off. Was very slow out of the gates. Won with ears pricked and was well supported on debut. High draw may be an issue if they race up the centre. Place chance.
- 3. CATURRA** - Great way of going. Respect Clive Cox in this race and at Royal Ascot with 2yo. Might improve for experience and step up to 6f. Needs to take a step up to be competitive on the ratings.
- 4. DASHING RAT** - Making up the numbers.
- 5. DHABAB** - Good breeze up horse purchased by Blandford. Won well at Leicester on debut - not sure what he beat and race was run to suit. Good stride. Professional. Stable second jockey.
- 6. EBRO RIVER** - Listed winner but very green / wayward. Can be slowly away. Has heaps of ability but can he be trusted - if he goes straight a winning chance. Poor draw.
- 7. ELDRIKJONES** - Cheap breeze up horse. Should be outclassed. Second on debut in moderate race.
- 8. GISBURN** - Won very well at Newbury on soft ground. Average field may have been flattered by ground and weak field. Unlucky first time out. Extravagant action - firmer ground? Under the odds for me.
- 9. GOLDEN WAR** - Slowly away and green on debut - given an easy time. Will come on a lot. Place chance at long odds.

**10. MASSETTO** - Won well on debut. Came from last on the fence in Group 3 last start - some excuses. Sold leading into this race. High head carriage and no form on firm ground. Must be respected but a few queries.

**11. SECRET STRENGTH** - Sharp 2yo type came from the Craven Breeze Up Sale (Con's Marnane). Took three starts to win. Battled it out well at Musselburgh last start. Tries hard but should struggle in this grade.

**12. THE ACROPOLIS** - Improved a lot from first to second start. Good way of going. On pace and great stride. Can improve again and Aidan's only runner. Has to be a live chance.

**13. THE GATEKEEPER** - Had a lot of racing and form is poor of late. Hard to have.

**14. THE ORGANISER** - Very soft win on debut at York and sold subsequent to that. Questionable form / quality of the field. Talented. Action? Firm ground?

**15. TOLSTOY** - Travelled well on pace at Yarmouth won under hands and heels ride. Race was run to suit and the form has not really worked out. High head carriage - quirky / Kingman? Frankie rides which has to be a positive.

**16. VINTAGE CLARETS** - Experienced but question whether he will run 6f. Won under a penalty. Tries hard. Quick short stride.

**17. KAUFYMAKER** - Wesley Ward trained filly. Very big / looks like a colt. Great gate speed. Big stride. Draw is a question mark and filly against the colts but should be the horse to beat on her debut win at Keeneland which was fairly spectacular.

Pace: Most of the pace is drawn low (far side) - should go quickly (Kaufymaker likely leader).

#### **3.40 KING'S STAND STAKES (Gr 1, 5f)**

**1. ARECIBO** - Trainer has a good record in the race but should be outclassed.

**2. BATTAASH** - Won this race first up last year and placed second in the previous two years. Best horses in the race and if anywhere near his best should win.

**3. EXTRAVAGANT KID** - Won the Al Quoz sprint in Dubai well. Has Frankie on which is a positive. Form prior to Meydan was solid but not at a Group One level. Chance but not entirely convinced.

**4. HARRY'S BAR** - Handicapper taking a big step up in class. Question whether he is up to them.

**5. KING'S LYNN** - Progressing nicely this year and only lightly raced. Big step up but high draw may be the place to be. Place chance.

**6. MAVEN** - Not the biggest and form is a little in and out. Have to respect the trainer but suspect he is not up to them at this level over 5f.

**7. ORNATE** - Outclassed here.

**8. OXTED** - Has not won since the July Cup (had wind surgery post that win). Recent form is nowhere near his best form. Drop back to 5f an advantage but hard to have on recent form.

**9. STONE OF DESTINY** - Outclassed but does have good Ascot form.

**10. GLAMOROUS ANNA** - Outclassed.

**11. KEEP BUSY** - Underrated mare who could run better than expectations. Has Group 1 form last year albeit mostly on soft ground. Ryan Moore on - not the worst.

**12. LIBERTY BEACH** - Third in this race last year as a 3YO. Won very well when resuming last start. Very quick mare and has a winning chance.

**13. QUE AMORO** - Unusual form - one peak performance when running second to Battash in the Nunthorpe - no form near that prior to or after. Have to respect trainer but may be better back at York.

**14. ACKLAM EXPRESS** - Talented and ran really well in Dubai. Terrible last start. Hard to have.

**15. UBETTABLEBELIEVEIT** - Talented but coming into this off a very bad run. Could improve.

**16. WINTER POWER** - Progressive 3yo filly who is very quick. Won a Listed race at York last start very well (second horses won a Listed race since). Big chance with the pull in the weights.

Pace: Very good pace across all draws / slightly more low draws (far side) - should go very quickly.

#### **4.20 ST JAMES'S PALACE STAKES (Gr 1, 1m)**

**1. BATTLEGROUND** - Very talented / well bred colt. Failed badly in the 2000 Guineas but can bounce back and Aidan is in good form. Drawn well and Ryan on - taking a little on trust but if back to best form a winning chance. Good Ascot form.

**2. BULLACE (HK, UAE, Aus)** - Very likeable horse who travels well in his races and quickens well. Just doesn't quite get 1m. Should be held in this class and would have been better placed in the Jersey Stakes later in the week.

**3. CHINDIT (Stallion Prospect)** - Talented colt - Group 2 winner as a 2YO and has Ascot form. Slightly tricky draw here which won't help. Ran well in the 2000 Guineas closing on gamely for 5th. Should be better on a flatter track. Winning chance.

**4. HIGHLAND AVENUE** - Progressed very quickly this year as a 3yo. Possibly too big a step up in class but undoubtedly very talented / well thought of to try this. Slightly slower big action and has raced over 9f. Place chance but query that he will be sharp enough for these.

**5. LA BARROSA** - Stables second string. Consistent type. Second to Master Of The Seas in the Craven before being well beaten over very soft ground in the Irish 2000 Guineas. Doubt he is up to this but does have ability.

**6. LUCKY VEGA** - Should have won the English 2000 Guineas and then was game in the Irish version / can forgive. Question whether he will run out a solid mile. Has a very good turn of foot. Winning chance.

**7. MAXIMAL** - Talented / well bred horse (out of a half-sister to Frankel). Respect trainer but this seems too much of an ask dropping him back in trip and sharply up in class.

**8. MOSTAHDAF** - Undefeated and have to respect connections who have won this race a number of times with similar profiled / lightly raced progressive types. Will need to step up again and a little workmanlike but tries very hard and travels well in his races. Needs to step up be can do it.

**9. NAAMOOS** - Progressive but big step up from winning handicaps at his last two starts to this Group 1 quality field. Should make the pace but question if he is up to these.

**10. ONTARIO** - Pacemaker for Battleground.

**11. POETIC FLARE** - English 2000 Guineas winner who has had a tough time of it backing up in the French and then Irish versions. Hung late in the Irish 2000 Guineas. Tough genuine horse and Bolger can keep these top class colts going throughout a season.

**12. THUNDER MOON (Stallion Prospect)** - Has he trained on? Thought he was the best 2YO colt last year. Very good turn of foot. Got stirred up prior to the English 2000 Guineas and ran a very poor last. Needs to improve but has the ability to be competitive.

**13. WEMBLEY** - He has been poor in both the English and Irish 2000 Guineas since the ride of Ryan Moore on both occasions. Obviously talented but not in good form.

Pace: Solid tempo expected. Naamoss (drawn out) likely leader.

#### **5.00 ASCOT STAKES (CLASS 2, 2m4f)**

Staying handicap generally won by Willie Mullins / Ryan Moore or Mark Johnston.

#### **5.35 WOLFERTON STAKES (Listed, 1m2f)**

- 1. EUCHEN GLEN** - Tough older horse who prefers soft ground. Badly in at the weights.
- 2. FOREST OF DEAN** - No run since April, also no turf run this season. Returned recently after a long break. His form is sound but also weighted right up to his best. Drawn well, Frankie / Gosden. Place chance.
- 3. VOLCANIC SKY** - Best form over further. First run since Meydan. Need the run?
- 4. SOLID STONE (UAE, Aus)** - Talented, relatively lightly raced and progressive. Last start winner of a Listed race. Best at a mile but has performed over 10f. Winning chance.
- 5. STORMY ANTARCTIC** - scratched.
- 6. BLUE CUP** - Big step up in grade. Progressive handicapper. Won well on soft ground last start. Not sure he is up to this on firmer ground.
- 7. DAWAAM** - Very lightly raced for 5yo. Number of big breaks in his career / has had wind surgery. Won well last start when resuming. Another step up again.
- 8. FATHER OF JAZZ** - Looked very progressive at the start of the season and has disappointed since. Not sure whether he tries.
- 9. FELIX** - Brings some of the best form to the race - third in the Dubai Turf (Gr 1) last start. Will get back in the field and will need luck in running but a winning chance. Well in at the weights.
- 10. FOX TAL** - Talented but finds it hard to win. Place chance.
- 11. JUAN ELCANO** - High class 3yo colt last season. This is a big drop back in class and he is well in but was disappointing first up - can improve.
- 12. PALAVECINO (UAE)** - Quirky on pace runner. Has ability but should be well held here.
- 13. PATRICK STARSFIELD** - Very well in. Drawn well and should get a good run. Run well under a penalty last start. Has Group form last season - progressive horse and the one to beat.
- 14. VICTORY CHIME** - Consistent handicapper. Place chance at best.

Pace: Good pace expected with Palavecino and Victory Chime the likely leaders and drawn wide.

#### **6.10 COPPER HORSE STAKES (Class 2, 1m6f)**

Staying handicap of limited interest.