

ROYAL ASCOT PREVIEW DAY THREE THURSDAY

2.30 NORFOLK STAKES (Group 2, 5f)

- 1. ANDREAS VESALIUS** - Took three runs to win, improving at each start. Good form when winning. Didn't sell at the London Sale this week. Has a chance.
- 2. CADAMOSTO** - Won very well on debut wearing a tongue tie. Plenty of speed and ability. Been scratched on multiple times. Issues? Has to be respected.
- 3. GO BEARS GO** - If the rain comes he has a very good chance. Love the way he goes, honest forward going horse. Won well at Ascot on debut. Breeze-up graduate. Chance.
- 4. INSTINCTIVE MOVE** - Won well at Bath first time out. Form questionable. Looks a nice type, nice way of going. Clive Cox has a good record at Royal Ascot especially with 2yos. Place chance.
- 5. KHUNAN** - Average form, looks outclassed.
- 6. KING OF SPEED** - Won an average Novice at Redcar. Looks a 5f horse only. Should be outclassed.
- 7. KORKER** - Second to Project Dante at York, then won an average race at Carlisle. Place chance at best.
- 8. LITTLE EARL** - Won a Catterick Maiden before finishing in a Listed behind Ebro River who ran well in the Coventry Stakes on Tuesday - that form reads well. Previous form average. Place chance.
- 9. LUCCI** - Typical Wesley Ward horse. Jumped well and led throughout to win a Belmont maiden impressively. Has to be respected.
- 10. NAKATOMI** - Not a typical Wesley Ward horse. Bit more workman like when winning Keeneland maiden on the dirt. Interesting to note that Qatar Racing has bought into him. Oisin Murphy rides. Has a chance.
- 11. NAVELLO** - Has had five runs. Experienced but should be outclassed.
- 12. PERFECT POWER** - Breeze-up purchase by Blandford Bloodstock. Fell out of the gates at his first start at Newcastle and again slowly away at Hamilton but won well. If jumps well he has a place chance.
- 13. PROJECT DANTE** - Loved the way he won at York - big stride and quick. If he was trained by a high profile trainer he would be favourite. Winning chance.
- 14. SECOND WIND** - Honest type - he has won both of his starts and the form of his last race is working out well. Trained by a good trainer who wouldn't be running here if they didn't think he had a chance. Has a good chance.
- 15. STRAITS OF MOYLE** - Outclassed.
- 16. TWILIGHT JET** - Expensive Craven breeze-up purchase (£210,000). Took three runs to win. He has been disappointing. Place chance.

Pace: Looks very strong on paper.

3.05 HAMPTON COURT STAKES (Group 3, 1m1f)

- 1. ONE RULER** - Very talented colt. Was the winter favourite for the 2000 guineas. Group 1 placed last year. Ran a decent race in the guineas beaten 5l by Poetic Flare which is good form. Didn't handle Epsom in the derby. Could sharply improve back on a flatter track, down in grade. Drawn well. Winning chance.
- 2. MATCHLESS** - Looks outclassed, potentially a pacemaker for Aiden.
- 3. MOHAAFETH** - Won last start like a Group 1 horse in Listed race. Never off the bridle. Was scratched in the derby because of soft ground. If rain comes it may be an issue. All based on promise and potential currently. Hard to beat if gets his conditions.
- 4. MOVIN TIME** - won his maiden very well at Newmarket. Hasn't been seen since. First time in stakes class. Needs to step up but has talent.
- 5. NOTRE BELLE BETE** - impressed early on in listed races first and second run. Had every chance last start when tired late over a mile. Up in class and distance is a concern.
- 6. PYTHAGORAS** - Been going ok. Needs soft ground. If rain comes is a place chance.
- 7. ROMAN EMPIRE** - Pacemaker in the Dante, was the best run. Stuck on well, big step up in form for him. Has to have a chance here.
- 8. SECRET PROTECTOR** - Well beaten by Mohaafeth last time out. Should be well held. Place chance.
- 9. SNAPAETERA** - Has been up and down in trip. Question at 10f in this class. Joseph wouldn't bring him here if he didn't think he had a chance. Frankie rides. Has to be respected to a degree.
- 10. THE ROSSTAFARIAN** - Outclassed. Generally best on soft ground. Has a big action. Hasn't really been competitive in Group company, has ability but not for me.

Pace: Solid pace but small field and both Coolmore and Godolphin run two each could be tactical.

3.40 RIBBLESDALE STAKES (Group 2, 1m3f)

- 1. AD INFINITUM** - Blandford breeze-up purchase. Broke her maiden in a Listed race last start. Still an immature filly, very talented. Will be better next year. Place chance.
- 2. ANNERVILLE** - Looks very talented, won maiden at Leopardstown very well. Johnny Murtagh wouldn't be coming here if he didn't think she had a chance. Needs to step up but has a place chance.
- 3. ARISTIA** - Won a maiden at Newbury on softish ground. Then third behind Eshaada in a Listed race when she had her chance. Progressive type, has ability - place chance.
- 4. DIVINELY** - Experienced filly, Group 3 winner last year. Very well beaten in the English Oaks, although that is good form for this. Step down in grade. Ryan Moore rides. Winning chance for sure.
- 5. DUBAI FOUNTAIN** - Can bounce back, as Mark Johnston's often do. Very well beaten in the English Oaks. Won the Chester Oaks very well prior to her last start failure. Top class filly last year. Wouldn't be surprised if she bounced back to winning form.
- 6. ESHAADA** - Out and out stayer who needs soft ground. First off the bridle last time at Newbury over 10f, stayed on best to just beat Gloria Mudi who reopposes. Winning chance but will need the rain to come and for this to be a stamina test.
- 7. GLORIA MUNDI** - Similar to the previous, well-bred staying type and has a decent chance. Probably prefer a few of the more experienced fillies with Group form.
- 8. GWENHWYVAR** - Looks outclassed, yet to win.
- 9. LOVING DREAM** - Probably looking to get stakes placed for the page, well bred filly.
- 10. NICEST** - Similar to the above. Well bred filly.
- 11. NOON STAR** - Exceptionally well bred. Won a novice very well under a penalty first time out this year. Only three lengths behind Snowfall when second in Musidora Stakes who then came out and won the English Oaks very well. Slightly awkward draw but she could have the potential to be a good filly. The one for me.
- 12. TASLIMA** - Probably not good enough, still a maiden.
- 13. TWISTED REALITY** - Similar form to Eshaada and Gloria Mundi, won a Novice and then fourth in the Listed race at Newbury. Place chance.

Pace: Not a huge amount on paper. Dubai Fountain should lead and be advantaged.

4.15 GOLD CUP (Group 1, 2m3f)

- 1. NAYEF ROAD** - He will probably make the pace. Not at the same level of form as he was last year. 2nd to Stradivaris last year. Can bounce back but unlikely.
- 2. RIP VAN LIPS** - Trained in Germany, form is not overly strong in that division at the moment. Unlikely.
- 3. SPANISH MISSION** - Good horse but his stamina will be tested here. It was a career best performance at York last start and have to forgive his Dubai performance. Soft ground could be an issue - if he gets good ground and he stays he is a winning chance.
- 4. STRADIVARIUS** - Going for his fourth Gold Cup to emulate the record of Yeats. Exceptional horse. Tried at a mile and a half last year and hasn't quite been the same horse since. Soft ground not ideal but won this race on soft ground last year against a weaker field. He was OK first time out but he should come on from that. Obvious chance.
- 5. TRUESHAN** - The one I like at the odds. He ran really well first time out at Chester. Winner of the Champions Long Distance Cup at Ascot last year on soft ground. If the rain comes, he is the one that can beat Stradivarius.
- 6. TWILIGHT PAYMENT** - Last year's Melbourne Cup winner. Likely to struggle at this marathon trip. Place chance at best.
- 7. AMHRAN NA BHFIANN** - Likely to be a pacemaker for Ballydoyle.
- 8. BEN LILLY** - Looks outclassed.
- 9. EMPEROR OF THE SUN** - Progressive stayer who is a half-brother to Zoustar. Won well last start. He will probably have his stamina tested here but one to follow - possible Melbourne Cup type of horse.
- 10. SANTIAGO** - Last year's Irish Derby winner. Talented horse. Give in the ground should suit, has quite a round action. Has class, travels well and can quicken. Would not surprise if he was competitive. Stable second rider is on but looks to be the form pick of the two.
- 11. SERPENTINE** - Hard horse to line up - winner of last year's English Derby but has not really lived up to that performance since. Question whether he will stay this trip.
- 12. SUBJECTIVIST** - Rightful winning chance very good winner in Dubai last start - did not disappoint all of last year. Goes on all ground conditions. Fast on pace stayer, never been at this trip but should see it out. Winning chance.

13. PRINCESS ZOE - Unlikely

Pace: Should be a solid tempo.

5.00 BRITANNIA STAKES (Class 2, 1m)

1. **EMPORIO** - Still a maiden. Fifth in Irish 2000 Guineas which is good form for this. Shows good early pace but limited turn of foot. May need soft ground with rounded action.
2. **HOROSCOPE** - Settles handy to the pace. Looks a big raw horse that will improve with time. Wears blinkers. Drawn high. Not well handicapped but must be respected.
3. **AKMAAM** - Down in class after well beaten in Craven Stakes (Gr 3) behind Master Of The Seas. Not seen since April. Group 3 placed last season. Needs to improve.
4. **ROYAL SCIMITAR** - Settled on the pace to fade into last at Goodwood last time out in a similar grade to today. Looks tested on recent efforts.
5. **RAADOBARG** - Very talented, round knee action so soft ground is important. Winning chance if the rain comes.
6. **LEGAL ATTACK** - Blandford breeze-up purchase. Underrated, back to handicap after running in stakes races. Has a claim and a good place chance.
7. **QAADER** - Tough win last time at Goodwood defeating Legal Attack. Big striding colt. Group 3 placed last year. Has a place chance.
8. **PEROTTO** - Won recently at Goodwood and is running off a penalty. He was slowly away there and settled at rear before closing well to win. The Mile should suit. Up in class but consistent and useful handicapper.
9. **MITHRAS** - Won Newbury handicap first time out before finishing fifth in Listed company beaten 6l to talented Mostahdaf. Down in class and a winning chance with Frankie on board.
10. **AERION POWER** - Won both starts this season, most recently a handicap at Doncaster and the form has been franked since. Can be slowly away. Will need to step up to be competitive here and drawn poorly.
11. **STAR OF ORION** - First time out this season. Group performed last season but has a preference for softer tracks which he may get if the track deteriorates with the race. First time at mile. Consistent performer but not worst at big odds.
12. **GIOIA CIECA** - Looks to be outclassed here.
13. **BIG NARSTIE** - Second at Ascot last time when producing best career performance. Likely to settle close to the speed. Will need to step up here with weight increase.
14. **BEAUTIFUL BERTIE** - Third behind Big Narstie last time at Ascot, similar profile. Looks outclassed.
15. **LIFFEY RIVER** - Second in a Curragh handicap last time. Enjoys softer going so if the rain comes he could be a good place chance.
16. **LAELAPS** - Looks tested here.
17. **DINOO** - Slowly away last time out finishing third at Wolverhampton over 7f. The way he closed suggests that he will be suited over a mile. Has a very extravagant action. Ran fifth in Group 3 company last season. If jumps with them and rain comes, he could be a place chance.
18. **ROYAL AIR FORCE** - Won well on debut at Yarmouth when racing greenly before quickening and drawing clear. Only battled in Craven Stakes but this easier. Failed on heavy track last time. He won't want it wet.
19. **SUMMA PETO** - Won well last time at Wolverhampton. Needs to step up but a consistent performer in lesser races.
20. **QUINTILLUS** - Didn't settle and hung badly last time at Sandown. Looked useful when winning Novice at Kempton but question whether he is genuine.
21. **GRID** - Won Cork maiden showing turn of foot to win comfortably. Took a long time to break maiden but looks handy enough, drawn well, and handles soft conditions. Place chance at good odds.
22. **SIAM FOX** - Won his last two race, most recently handicap at Doncaster. Has an awkward action and looks one paced.
23. **DUBAI HONOUR** - First time out this season. Won Haydock Novice easily with form providing useful. Has a very high knee action, could benefit from soft going. Not the worst.
24. **LONGLAI** - Fifth behind Perotto last time when leading and going quick. Stayed on quite well considering only beaten 2 lengths. Nice big action. Gets a weight relief here, stable is in form and is a good chance at big odds.
25. **ROYAL PLEASURE** - Looked very good at Wolverhampton winning a handicap off 80. Beaten by stakes horse when 2nd at Kempton. Sir Mark Prescott is an expert at handicapping his horses and this would have been planned a long way out.

- 26. ATASER** - Interesting horse, tried to buy him last year. Hasn't run this year. Could be very well handicapped. Apprentice on board, small trainer but very capable. Good looking horse, winning chance at very long odds.
- 27. TAWLEED** - Didn't handle soft ground last time at Goodwood. Previous start won well at Newmarket although in poor grade. Is a progressive enough type but if rain comes, it might hinder any chance of a place.
- 28. GEORGE PEABODY** - They have had this race in mind for a long time. Has been winning average races well this season. Quite well bred, has a chance.
- 29. AIR TO AIR** - Won last two, most recently at Doncaster when winning nicely. Won on soft ground. Needs to improve again here to be competitive but looks progressive and has to be given a chance at the light weight.
- 30. EMPEROR SPIRIT** - Progressive horse. Form around Indigo Jones looks good. Travels well with big stride. Hung when second last time out but looks like an improver. Needs to step up but place chance off his light weight.

Pace: Very good pace.

5.35 KING GEORGE V STAKES (Class 2, 1m4f)

- 1. SIR LAMORAK** - Won well at Leopardstown, when showing a good turn off foot. This is a step up in grade but he is the one to beat. Weighted right up to his best but could be winning.
- 2. SISKANY** - Winning of his last three including when winning eased down at Sandown last time out. Has class. Needs to improve again but looks a winning chance. Appreciates softer tracks.
- 3. LORD PROTECTOR** - Very progressive, unbeaten, German bred. Soft ground is important. Stays well, draw is an issue. Place chance
- 4. NAGANO** - Won quite well at Newcastle. Will again appreciate the step up in trip. Decent horse. Winning chance.
- 5. ACT OF WISDOM** - Fifth beaten 4.5 lengths by Mohaafeth last time. Very well bred, high priced yearling. Has upside and gelded since last run. Looks over the odds and a chance.
- 6. FRANCESCO GUARDI** - Showed promise last year. Average run first time out this year. Could improve.
- 7. JUST FINE** - Disappointed first time out this season. Handy enough but grinding type. Handles softer going.
- 8. MARSHALL PLAN** - Progressive type. Beat Golden Flame at second start. Needs to improve to be competitive here but not the worst. All form is on the all weather.
- 9. KONDO ISAMI** - Galileo half to Zoustar. Second to Dancing King which is decent form. Back in trip might suit. Down in the weights from Johnston team. Place chance.
- 10. SIR WILLIAM BRUCE** - Broke maiden at fourth attempt in Leopardstown maiden. Travelled nicely, big stride. Place chance
- 11. FIRST LIGHT** - Won his maiden by 12 lengths. Well bred and promising. Looked very good last start but will need to progress again here. Justifiable winning chance but maybe under the odds due to the connections (Frankie rides).
- 12. TOO FRIENDLY** - Won his maiden well at Doncaster and then disappointed up to a Listed race at his next start. Might improve but prefer to watch.
- 13. SAN MARTINO** - Question whether he will stay the trip.
- 14. MILITARY MISSION** - Bought by Gai Waterhouse and Adrian Bott earlier in the week at the Goffs London Sale. Nice enough horse. First time at a mile and a half, question whether he stays. Place chance. Soft ground will suit.
- 15. PARACHUTE** - Stayed on well to win a handicap at Newmarket. Raced well on heavy ground. Place chance.
- 16. SUREFIRE** - Well bred progressive horse. Well in at the weights. Has a winning chance.
- 17. SURREY GOLD** - Won Newbury handicap very well at his last start, although didn't beat much. Extravagant action, enjoys heavy going. If rain comes he is a chance.
- 18. SOAPY STEVENS** - Won last two. Back in distance. Gets in well at the weights. From the Johnston stable and must be respected.
- 19. TASHKHAN** - Won Haydock handicap latest. Stays well. Up 11lb so needs to improve.

Pace: Not a huge amount of pace on paper.

6.10 Buckingham Palace Stakes (7f)

Very open 30 runner 7 furlong handicap or limited interest.