



ROYAL ASCOT

DAY 2 PREVIEW

WEDNESDAY 19 JUNE

RACE 1

THE QUEEN MARY
STAKES (GROUP 2),
5F

PRIZE MONEY
£150,000

RACE 2

THE QUEEN'S VASE
(GROUP 2),
1M 6F 34Y

PRIZE MONEY
£265,000

RACE 3

THE DUKE OF
CAMBRIDGE
STAKES (GROUP 2),
7F 213Y

PRIZE MONEY
£225,000

RACE 4

THE PRINCE OF
WALES'S STAKES
(GROUP 1),
1M 1F 212Y

PRIZE MONEY
£1,000,000

RACE 5

THE ROYAL HUNT
CUP (HERITAGE
HANDICAP),
1M (STR)

PRIZE MONEY
£175,000

RACE 6

THE KENSINGTON
PALACE STAKES
(HANDICAP),
1M (STR)

PRIZE MONEY
£110,000

RACE 7

THE WINDSOR
CASTLE STAKES
(LISTED),
5F

PRIZE MONEY
£110,000

CONTENTS

RUNNER BY RUNNER GUIDE BY MIKE CATTERMOLE

PAGE 3&4

EXPERT TIPS BY JAMES FLAHERTY

PAGE 5

HANDICAP HOTSHOT BY TONY ENNIS

PAGE 6

HOLLIE DOYLE BLOG

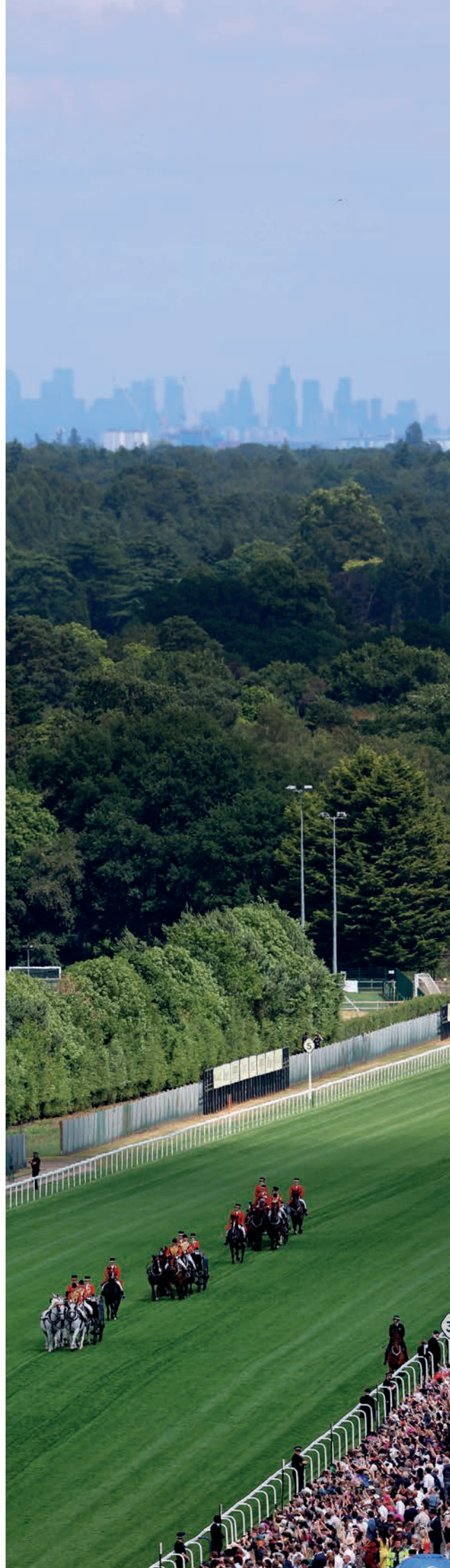
PAGE 7

TIMEFORM TIPS

PAGES 8

GUIDE TO ASCOT

PAGES 9





PRINCE OF WALES'S STAKES

RUNNER BY RUNNER GUIDE

BY SKY SPORTS RACING PUNDIT MIKE CATTERMOLE

Established in 1862 and raised to Group 1 status in 2000, the Prince of Wales's Stakes is littered with a top-class role of honour and this renewal promises to be one of the highlights of the week. There are two dual Classic winners from last season in the line-up, two-time Derby winner Auguste Rodin, who is set to start favourite, and French Guineas and Oaks winner Blue Rose Cen. The home challenge is led by six-time Group 1 winner Inspiral who comes here instead of the Queen Anne Stakes.

ALFLAILA

Hold-up performer who is a six-time winner and ended 2022 with a Group 3 double in the Strensall Stakes at York and Darley Stakes at Newmarket, both on a sound surface. The progress continued at the start of last season when he defeated My Prospero in the Group 2 York Stakes, but he could only manage fifth, beaten just over three lengths by Auguste Rodin, in the Irish Champion Stakes last September. He was left with a bit to do there when outpaced turning in but kept on well to be never nearer. That was his first crack at the highest level and he has not been seen since. However, he has a great record fresh and will enjoy the underfoot conditions. He doesn't have a huge amount to find and is a worthy contender who won't be seen until late.

AUGUSTE RODIN

Enigmatic or what? But so good on his day and can still boast a tip-top CV with five Group 1 wins, including the Derby and Irish Derby, Irish Champion Stakes and Breeders' Cup Turf. What to make, though, of his no-shows in the 2,000 Guineas, King George here at Ascot last July and the Sheema Classic in Dubai? He showed more in the Tattersalls Gold Cup at the Curragh last time but was no match for White Birch and will need to step up on that if he is to get back into the winning groove. He could easily do so of course and he will start favourite - indeed, the only time he didn't top the market was when winning the Derby. So versatile on the ground - he handles extremes of going equally well - but even so, I am happy to just sit back and watch him.

BLUE ROSE CEN

Ended her juvenile season with a romp in the Prix Marcel Boussac and continued that form into her Classic season by mopping up the Poule d'Essai des Pouliches and Prix de Diane. She was especially impressive at Chantilly but then it all went wrong in the Nassau Stakes when she was continually denied a run. Another defeat followed in the Prix Vermeille, when the trip was possibly too far, but she bounced back over this trip in the Prix de l'Opera. In April, she was moved from Christopher Head to the relatively unknown Mauricio Guarneri and her reappearance fifth in the Prix d'Ispahan was perfectly satisfactory to set her up for this. This quicker surface will be new to her and she needs to squeeze out some more to go close in this company. Christophe Soumillon now takes over from Aurelien Lemaitre.

INSPIRAL

Brilliant mare who lit up this meeting two years ago with a stunning performance in the Coronation Stakes and then was denied by a neck by Triple Time in last year's Queen Anne Stakes. After that setback, she went on to lower the colours of Big Rock in the Prix Jacques le Marois and ended the year with scintillating performances in the Sun Chariot Stakes at Newmarket and Filly and Mare at Santa Anita. The Breeders' Cup win was the first time she had tackled a mile and a quarter and it suited her so very well as she destroyed them with her turbo-charged acceleration. Not so good in the Lockinge Stakes at Newbury on her reappearance but was said to need that race as she had been slow to come to hand in the wet spring. Today, on her favoured fast ground, there will be no excuses and this could be the perfect moment for Kieran Shoemark to cement his new role on the highest stage as stable jockey for the Gosden's.

PRINCE OF WALES'S STAKES

RUNNER BY RUNNER GUIDE

CONTINUED

HANS ANDERSEN



A talented performer but not up to this level and was used as a pacemaker for Auguste Rodin at the Curragh last time and has no chance of hanging onto the lead for very long once they've swung into the straight here.

HORIZON DORE



Came right back to near his high-class best when beaten a whisker in the Prix d'Ispahan at Longchamp with a reappearing Blue Rose Cen just over two lengths behind in fifth. But he has not yet quite recaptured his very best form last autumn which saw him take the Prix Dollar during Arc weekend and then a creditable third over this course and distance in the Champion Stakes last October behind King Of Steel (Regal Rhyme fifth). A major issue would be the ground as all of his best form is on good to soft or soft and this would probably be the fastest surface he has encountered since blowing out in the Hong Kong Cup last December.

LORD NORTH



What a superstar he has been over the years with his £6.4m in earnings, helped by a hat-trick in the Dubai Turf at Meydan in which he was only eighth this year. Probably not the force of old and was especially good when winning this in style four years ago. Still well capable and ran a sound third to Charyn in the Sandown Mile last time. Ground is fine.

ROYAL RHYME



Big question mark about the ground for this son of Lope De Vega as he encounters a fast surface for the first time. Who knows how he will handle it but he seems very comfortable on soft and was highly impressive in a handicap at Goodwood last August. Group company is where he belongs now, though, and after ending last year with an honourable fifth here in the Champion Stakes, he carried on the progress when too good for Certain Lad in the Group 3 Brigadier Gerard Stakes at Sandown. Needs to kick on again on a surface that is new to him.

SNOBBISH



Formerly trained in Spain and other than doing a pacemaking job for Blue Rose Cen, looks way out of his depth here. Don't want to sound snobbish but just hope he doesn't get in the way as he backtracks up the straight when some of the bigger guns are making their moves.

ZARAKEM



Last summer he was mopping up in the French provinces, winning five in a row on good or good to soft, but then seemed to find that step up in class to a Group 2 at Longchamp beyond him in October. However, he went forward again on his reappearance in the Group 2 Prix d'Harcourt back at Longchamp with a career best to hold off Horizon Dore. That saw him going off favourite for the Group 1 Prix Ganay but he disappointed there in beating only one home in that nine-strong field. So, a question to answer and this will also be the fastest ground he has raced on.

TACTICS

HOW WILL THE RACE PAN OUT?

Hans Andersen and Snobbish are surely in here to force the pace for the aforementioned classic winners but Blue Rose Cen likes to be ridden handily anyway. Auguste Rodin won't be far behind them, with Lord North and Zarakem, while Inspiral, Horizon Dore and Alflaila will be ridden quietly and produced late.

VERDICT

This is a real treat. A lot of the contenders would prefer softer ground, especially the French raiders. But it won't be an issue for Auguste Rodin and ideal for **INSPIRAL** who is expected to come with a wet sail and land her seventh win at the highest level. Alflaila will be staying on late and could grab some place money.

EXPERT TIPS

BY SKY SPORTS RACING PUNDIT JAMES FLAHERTY



15.05 | QUEEN'S VASE | ILLINOIS



Illinois sits at the head of the market. It is a race that the stable looks to have a strong hand in too, so it is no surprise that the choice of Ryan Moore is favorite. Especially as the form of his second in the Lingfield Derby trial looks very solid in the context of this race. He looked like he was still learning at Lingfield, and he was good enough to run Los Angeles close in France last year too, so his form stacks up with the better three-year-olds. He is a clear standout; the track should suit him better (it took him a while to get balanced at Lingfield) and I think he will improve for the step up in trip too. The only thing putting me off is the price, I do think he is by far the likeliest winner though. I still have him shorter than the price available, especially now that Moore is on top, and I am willing to take the 9/4.

15.45 | DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE STAKES | NOVUS EACH WAY



Going to suggest an each-way play on Novus in the Duke of Cambridge Stakes. I can't believe she is as big a price as she is though (even if she would prefer it softer), given that she is officially rated just 3lb inferior to the top rated and has progressed with virtually every run since a respectable sixth in the Sandringham off a mark of 86 at this meeting last year. She was an unlucky loser a couple of times thereafter but obliged at Goodwood in August, before finishing the campaign strongly. She ran a cracker in a Group 3 at Sandown and then won at Newmarket on her final start. That earned her the current rating of 107 and she showed that is not an inflated one with an excellent effort in defeat at Goodwood last time. Gary Moore's filly was chinned on the line by Royal Dress, with Breege back in third, but both of those fillies were in receipt of 5lb from her on that occasion. Her previous wins have come on softer conditions, but she ran perfectly well at this meeting last year, when she was far too keen. Furthermore, she has twice run well on good ground at Sandown. She rarely runs a bad race and I think she represents good each-way value.

17.40 | KENSINGTON PALACE STAKES | BACK SEE DAA EACH WAY



Back See Daa is a filly I have been waiting for since Glorious Goodwood last year. That Goodwood contest was one of the hottest handicaps run all season. The second, the aforementioned Novus, and fourth Royal Dress are running in the Group 2 earlier on this card, and it is worth remembering that they were getting 6lbs off Back See Daa. The winner is now rated 10lb higher, while the eighth, ninth and twelfth home are all now rated higher after subsequent wins. Even more noteworthy, Back See Daa shaped much better than the result. She was doing plenty in the early stages despite being close to the pace, and the first five home all came from near the rear of the field. She also got caught in a pocket at a vital stage. Incredibly, she runs off 1lb lower and while her freshness is a concern off a long absence, she comes from an excellent yard and expect her to be fit enough to do herself justice. I am convinced she is better than a mark of 91. In fact, all her runs last year suggest she is and the price available is something of an insult to her ability.

17.40 | KENSINGTON PALACE STAKES | AURORA DAWN EACH WAY



I'm also going to play recent eyecatcher Aurora Dawn, who was unable to give her true running at Goodwood last time. Virtually everything that could go wrong, did go wrong - from a slow start to the subsequent poor position which meant she was a hostage to fortune. It was a case of Murphy's Law, and the gaps didn't appear when needed. She finished the race on the bridle and certainly had a lot more to give. She was travelling well waiting for a run for a sustained period and it was a run of one that is certainly feasibly treated. It represented a step forward from her seasonal return and she has been kindly dropped a pound too.

HANDICAP HOTSHOT

BY SKY SPORTS RACING PUNDIT TONY ENNIS



SUMMER OF LOVE



4-Y-O BAY FILLY
TRAINER: S BIN SUROOR
OWNER: GODOLPHIN
JOCKEY: C SOUMILION

88

SIRE: DARK ANGEL (IRE)
DAM: ALBASHARAH (USA)
DAM'S SIRE: ARCH (USA)

Saeed bin Suroor hasn't had that much to shout about so far this season but he identifies the right sort of horse for the handicaps here and his filly **SUMMER OF LOVE** looks the one to side with in Wednesday's Kensington Palace Handicap. The daughter of Dark Angel makes her turf debut in this deep looking race after three starts at Kempton. She won two of those three races and there's no reason why she won't be effective on the grass. She made all on her most recent outing at the Sunbury venue two weeks ago and looked in complete control throughout. Hopefully she can do what Notable Speech did on his turf debut after three Kempton runs!



HOLLIE DOYLE

Sky Sports Racing ambassador Hollie Doyle expects a big run from a Royal Hunt Cup outsider on day two of Royal Ascot on Wednesday.



MAW LAM | QUEEN MARY | 14:30



The Queen Mary Stakes, which gets day two of Royal Ascot underway on Wednesday, looks a strong renewal with Irish contenders **Make Haste** and **Truly Enchanting** and Karl Burke's speedy **Leovanni** heading a 26-runner cavalry charge.

I ride the Adrian Nicholls-trained **MAW LAM** in the fillies' Group 2 and hope she can out-run potentially big odds over the flying 5f. We're drawn low in stall 4 which might not be ideal, but her experience will be an advantage. This daughter of Acclamation won decisively first time out at her local track Thirsk and was a bit unlucky at Beverley in the Hilary Needler - a traditional trial for this race - when she was sent off favourite. Maw Lam missed the break that day and we all know how hard it is to make up ground on the Westwood if you don't get away on terms, but she flew home to be second.

REGHEEB | ROYAL HUNT CUP | 17:05



I'm over on the far side in stall 31 in the Royal Hunt Cup on Archie Watson's outsider **REGHEEB**, who has more quality than his big price suggests. Sheikh Ahmed Al Maktoum's four-year-old is still on a progressive curve and we've always thought highly of him at Archie Watson's Saxon Gate Stables in Lambourn.

I've always felt he's got a big race in him and his two runs this year have been encouraging. He was second at Ripon on re-appearance and probably ran better still when third at Sandown last time.

Regheeb is up against some battle-hardened sprinters over the straight mile so he'll need to improve again to take this but I think the stiff test will really suit him.

VINGEGAARD | WINDSOR CASTLE | 18:15



Like the Queen Mary, the second juvenile race of the day, the Listed Windsor Castle Stakes, is ultra-competitive but I like my boy **VINGEGAARD**.

He won a Chepstow maiden in heavy ground that he hated so he's entitled to improve for the experience and a sounder racing surface. He's only small but has a good temperament which is crucial at Ascot.

At the top end of the market, Wathnan Racing's **Shadow Army** will be popular after winning a race at York that has worked out well. His trainer Richard Fahey has been operating at a 25 per cent strike rate which bodes well for his chances.

TIMEFORM TIPS

RACE

1

- 1st **MAKE HASTE** (13)
- 2nd **TRULY ENCHANTING** (23)
- 3rd **ULTIMA GRACE** (24)

RACE

2

- 1st **HIGHBURY** (3)
- 2nd **ILLINOIS** (4)
- 3rd **BIRDMAN** (1)

RACE

3

- 1st **LAUREL** (6)
- 2nd **ROGUE MILLENIUM** (11)
- 3rd **OCEAN JEWEL** (1)

RACE

4

- 1st **INSPIRAL** (10)
- 2nd **AUGUSTE RODIN** (2)
- 3rd **ROYAL RHYME** (6)

RACE

5

- 1st **BESHTANI** (6)
- 2nd **WILD TIGER** (20)
- 3rd **SONNY LISTON** (1)

RACE

6

- 1st **ELIM** (20)
- 2nd **SUMMER OF LOVE** (11)
- 3rd **DOHA** (16)

RACE

7

- 1st **TREASURE ISLE** (24)
- 2nd **SHADOW ARMY** (22)
- 3rd **CELTIC CHIEFTAIN** (7)



Illinois before the William Hill Lingfield Derby Trial Stakes



Inspiral wins the Coronation Stakes during day four of Royal Ascot

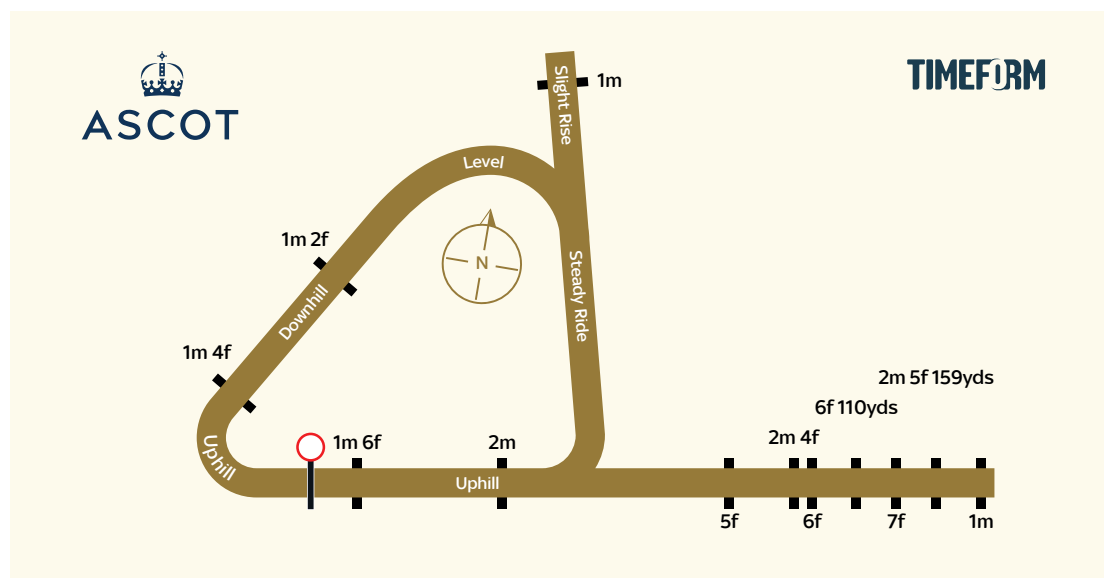


Auguste Rodin (left) wins The Betfred Derby

GUIDE TO ASCOT

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

“ Because the run-in on Ascot’s round course is relatively short, positioning - jockeyship in other words - is key. It goes without saying that in steadily-run races you want to be towards the sharp end but, whatever the pace, you can get into trouble trying to come through rivals late on. We’re still learning about the straight course, following the relaying a few years back, but in my view it’s more pace-dependent than draw-dependent. Given the right pace to chase, I reckon you can win from anywhere. ”



The round course is a right-handed, triangular circuit of fourteen furlongs, with a run-in of 2 furlongs. There is a straight mile course and the Old mile course which joins the round course in Swinley Bottom. Despite the downhill run into Swinley Bottom and relatively short run-in from the final turn, Ascot is galloping in character. Since the redevelopment, the turn into the straight has become more sweeping and those ridden prominently can be difficult to peg back. Nowadays, the ground in the straight drains quicker than the rest of the course, meaning going descriptions can vary.

