



ROYAL
ASCOT

DAY 1 PREVIEW

TUESDAY 17 JUNE

RACE 1

QUEEN ANNE
STAKES (GROUP 1)
1M

PRIZE MONEY
£750,000

RACE 2

COVENTRY STAKES
(GROUP 2)
6F

PRIZE MONEY
£175,000

RACE 3

KING CHARLES III
STAKES (GROUP 1)
5F

PRIZE MONEY
£650,000

RACE 4

ST JAMES'S PALACE
STAKES (GROUP 1)
7F 213Y

PRIZE MONEY
£650,000

RACE 5

ASCOT STAKES
(HERITAGE
HANDICAP)
2M 3F 210Y

PRIZE MONEY
£110,000

RACE 6

WOLFERTON
STAKES (LISTED)
1M 1F 212Y

PRIZE MONEY
£120,000

RACE 7

COPPER HORSE
STAKES HANDICAP
1M 6F 34Y

PRIZE MONEY
£110,000

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ST JAMES'S PALACE STAKES

RUNNER BY
RUNNER GUIDE

BY GINA BRYCE



An absolute humdinger of a race awaits in the St James's Palace Stakes with the English, Irish and French Guineas winners all lining up in what is a very worthy contender for the race of the entire week. Will Field of Gold exact revenge over his Newmarket conqueror Ruling Court and are we in danger of underestimating the economical Henri Matisse? Whilst it does look a three horse race on paper the support team have a vital role to play in setting the stage for a truly run race, one in which the champion of the this hugely exciting division can be anointed.



FIELD OF GOLD



Narrowly defeated in the 2000 Guineas in arguably explicable circumstances, Juddmonte's star miler went on to make defeat a distant memory with a commanding victory in the Irish equivalent. The stiff mile at the Curragh seemed to bring out the best in him and the stiff uphill finish is sure to play to his strengths here. Versatile on any ground and with the likelihood that he hasn't yet reached the ceiling of his immense ability, he can further enhance his reputation by following in the hoof prints of his sire Kingman who took this race in 2014.

RULING COURT



The prevailing view seems to be that the 2000 Guineas winner was lucky to beat Field of Gold having been better positioned to get first run on his rival on a speed favouring track that weekend. Whilst a perfectly acceptable view to take I am reluctant to underestimate this horse and his prospects of taking another huge step forward to pose a formidable challenge to his rival. The negative might be the reroute to this race having been trained to peak ten days earlier over the longer distance of the Derby. For all he is clearly an extremely talented horse with scope to improve the last minute changes to his schedule is a less than ideal preparation to take on the opposition he'll face here.

ST JAMES'S PALACE STAKES

RUNNER BY RUNNER GUIDE

Continued

HENRI MATISSE



A strong pace and as late a delivery as possible are the boxes that need ticked to see the French 2000 Guineas winner at his best. The bingo card was full at Longchamp last time out when winning over the mile for the second time from as many runs and for all he has a few pounds to find on the top two in the market, he is unexposed over this trip and a fast run mile on quick ground round the bend will be the perfect set up for him to excel. He is drawn in stall one so will likely have to take back and rely on the pace setters to tow him into the race.

RASHABAR



An 80-1 winner of the Coventry at this meeting last year, the pick of his two year old form, including when finishing in front of Field of Gold in the Lagadere proved it was no flash in the pan. An encouraging comeback in the Greenham when needing the run was soon in the rear view mirror however after a five length defeat in the Irish 2000 Guineas by Field of Gold making it hard to envisage him taking the necessary chunk of improvement required to turn the tables here.

OFFICER



Comes here as the second string for the same connections as Henri Matisse, he was put firmly in his place in the Irish 2000 Guineas when he ran below expectations given his position in the market. He boasts a first class pedigree out of Group 1 winner Hydrangea from the family of Hermosa and although he was progressive in three starts at the Curragh before his last start he still needs to prove he can cut it at Group 1 level let alone in company as spicy as this.

WINDLORD



Placed efforts in minor Group company is not the level of form needed to figure here and likely to occupy a similar role to when leading the field and the fellow Juddmonte owned Field of Gold in the Irish 2000 Guineas before dropping away.

FIRST WAVE



Representing the same connections as Henri Matisse and Officer. A front running maiden win at Gowran Park last time is a far cry from the level required here but he may adopt a similar position here to set the desired pace for stablemate Henri Matisse.



VERDICT



With the potential pace angles drawn in stalls three and four the favourite **FIELD OF GOLD** is ideally berthed to get the perfect run round in a race in which the bend can occasionally present problems for jockeys jostling for positions. Whilst Field of Gold is a prohibitively short price against high class opposition he has everything going for him in a small field from a good draw and it is hard to see anything stopping him from emulating his sire with an impressive win. I am reluctant to underestimate Henri Matisse and will play him for the forecast for a trainer who seeks a tenth win in this day one feature.

STATS AND TRENDS

BY PAUL JONES



No one knows more about the crucial trends behind the races at Royal Ascot than Paul Jones, who has compiled comprehensive Stats Guides for every Group 1 race on the Tuesday of Royal Ascot 2025.



QUEEN ANNE STAKES TUESDAY 17TH JUNE, 14:30PM

Group 1 | Class 1 | 4YO plus

✓ POSITIVES:

Contested the Lockinge Stakes
Four-year-olds
Owned by Godolphin
Trained by Richard Hannon

✗ NEGATIVES:

Failed to win a Group 1
Aged over five
Fillies/mares (unless a Breeders' Cup winner)
Seasonal debutantes



KING CHARLES III STAKES TUESDAY 17TH JUNE, 15:40PM

Group 1 | Class 1 | 3YO plus

✓ POSITIVES:

Last-time-out winners
Trained in Australia
Contested the Temple Stakes
Top-four finish in the Prix du Gros-Chêne
Fillies/mares
Previous winner of the race

✗ NEGATIVES:

Outside the first two last time out
Failed to win a Group 1 or Group 2
Failed to win a Group race over 5f



ST JAMES'S PALACE STAKES TUESDAY 17TH JUNE, 16:20PM

Group 1 | Class 1 | 3YO only

✓ POSITIVES:

Ran in both the 2000 Guineas and Irish 2000 Guineas
A Group 1 winner (especially a European Guineas)
The favourite
Trained by Aidan O'Brien (especially if contested the Irish 2000 Guineas)
Drawn low
Won last season's Coventry Stakes

✗ NEGATIVES:

Yet to contest a Group 1 (unless trained by John & Thady Gosden)
Failed to finish in the first four in any European Guineas (unless trained by John & Thady Gosden)
Less than two starts this season

DARK HORSES

BY DAVE ORTON



LAKE FOREST | QUEEN ANNE STAKES



Although yet to run over a mile and having performed way below market expectations on his seasonal debut in France last month, **LAKE FOREST** doesn't obviously appeal as a Queen Anne winner in waiting.

However, the four-year-old is not yet fully exposed and trainer William Haggas has been plotting to have his colt turn up at fever pitch on the big day.

He shaped like a miler when finding only Inisherin too strong on his three-year-old debut in last year's Commonwealth Cup over 6f, and there was so much to like about his defeat of current Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee favourite Lazzat when signing off down under at Randwick in November.

His run style is also ideal for Ascot's straight track and odds at the time of writing around 14-1 just seem too big.

MGHEERA | KING CHARLES III STAKES



It couldn't have gone any better for this ex-French sprinter since joining Ed Walker in 2025, winning both her first two outings for the stable.

She wasn't at all a typical purchase for her illustrious connections when snapped up for 240,000 euros last year, with 18 career runs already under the belt and a lacklustre previous attempt in Group 1 company.

Walker has worked his magic, though, and she heads into the first day of Royal Ascot with a big chance. Her profile suggests Good to Firm ground might be a worry, but it was a lot quicker than the official going description when she won at Paris Longchamp last month and her action strongly suggests she's been waiting for a rapid surface all along. A tendency to miss the break could also be a blessing in disguise on this stiff course too.



HOLLIE DOYLE

After a win and two close seconds in the last three runnings of the Coventry Stakes, our ambassador Hollie Doyle is hoping Shaatir can get Royal Ascot off to a flying start in the two-year-old feature on day one.



SHAATIR | THE COVENTRY STAKES | 15.05



The Coventry Stakes (3.05) at Royal Ascot is a race my boss Archie Watson and I have done well in and I'm expecting that good record to continue with the exciting **SHAATIR** in the big two-year-old race on the opening day.

Shaatir, who is one of three chances for Archie, comes into the Group 2 on the back of a sparkling performance at Lingfield Park and has the credentials to run a huge race.

The horse that beat him on debut at Chepstow, Tom Dascombe's Italica, franked the form by winning again at Salisbury on Sunday. Shaatir's inexperience caught him out that day but once we got to the rail at Lingfield the turbo really kicked in.

He's a talented colt who we've always liked and has a great mind which will help him cope with the demands of Royal Ascot. We're drawn right in the middle of them, too, which is a good place to be.

HMS PRESIDENT | COPPER HORSE STAKES | 18.10



I'm on stand-by in another race I've won at Royal Ascot, the Copper Horse Stakes (6.10) on Tuesday. Alan King's **HMS PRESIDENT** is a reserve for the 1m6f handicap I claimed the glory in back in 2021 on Imad Alsagar's Amtiyaz.

This reliable eight-year-old is owned by HP Racing and conjures memories of my Duke of Edinburgh Stakes win for the late Henry Ponsonby on Scarlet Dragon back in 2020 – my first Royal Ascot winner.

HMS President had a near miss in that race himself two years ago when he was pipped at the post by Ryan Moore on Joseph O'Brien's Okita Soushi so it would be nice to get the chance to set the record straight in the Copper Horse.

STRONG TRIO FOR MY BOSS ARCHIE | COVENTRY STAKES | 15:05

I won the Coventry for Archie on Bradsell back in 2022, of course, and have finished an agonising second in each of the last two runnings on his Army Ethos and Electrolyte, who went down by just a nose to Rashabar 12 months ago.

He also runs **TADEJ**, a colt I won on at York recently, and Wathnan Racing's **UNDERWRITER** who made a strong impression up at Ayr for James Doyle on his only start so far and, like Shaatir, looks a colt of great potential. With James choosing to ride **POSTMODERN** for the same owners, top international jockey James McDonald comes in for what I think will be an exciting ride on Underwriter.

TIMEFORM TIPS

RACE

1

1st **NOTABLE SPEECH** (8)

2nd **ROSALLION** (10)

3rd **LEAD ARTIST** (7)

RACE

2

1st **GSTAAD** (9)

2nd **WARSAW** (21)

3rd **ANDAB** (2)

RACE

3

1st **BELIEVING** (14)

2nd **ASFOORA** (12)

3rd **STARLUST** (9)

RACE

4

1st **FIELD OF GOLD** (1)

2nd **RULING COURT** (6)

3rd **HENRI MATISSE** (3)

RACE

5

1st **NURBURGRING** (13)

2nd **PONIROS** (20)

3rd **REACHING HIGH** (15)

RACE

6

1st **HAATEM** (9)

2nd **ENFJAAR** (8)

3rd **HAUNTED DREAM** (10)

RACE

7

1st **JESSE EVANS** (15)

2nd **LAVENDER HILL MOB** (10)

3rd **CHARLUS** (9)



Rosallion winning the St James's Palace Stakes on Day 1 of Royal Ascot 2024



Asfoora winning the King Charles III Stakes on Day 1 of Royal Ascot 2024

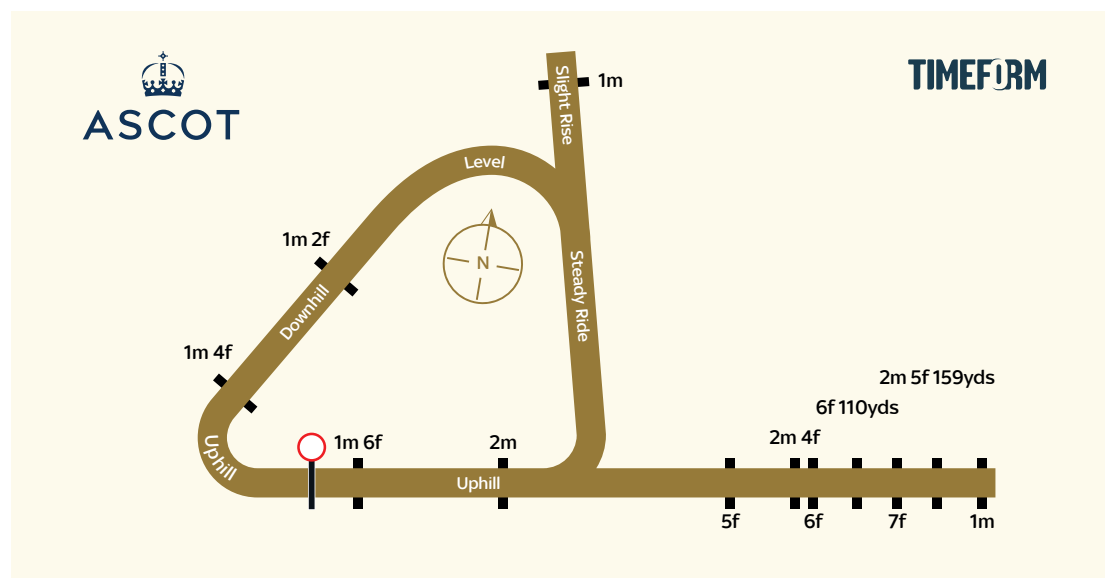


Haatem winning the Jersey Stakes on Day 5 of Royal Ascot 2024

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 2½ 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.

