

# ROYAL ASCOT BETTING GUIDE

presented by **twinspires**







# ROYAL ASCOT BETTING GUIDE



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# RACE SCHEDULE

## TUESDAY - JUNE 17, 2025

Local Time	UTC	EDT	CDT	MDT	PDT	Race	Age	Prize Fund	Distance
02:30 PM	1:30pm	9:30am	8:30am	7:30am	6:30am	The Queen Anne Stakes (Group 1)	4+	£750,000	Straight Mile
03:05 PM	2:05pm	10:05am	9:05am	8:05am	7:05am	The Coventry Stakes (Group 2)	2	£175,000	Six furlongs
03:40 PM	2:40pm	10:40am	9:40am	8:40am	7:40am	The King Charles III Stakes (Group 1)	3+	£650,000	Five furlongs
04:20 PM	3:20pm	11:20am	10:20am	9:20am	8:20am	The St James's Palace Stakes (Group 1)	3 colts	£650,000	Old Mile
05:00 PM	4:00pm	12:00pm	11:00am	10:00am	9:00am	The Ascot Stakes (Handicap) (Class 2) (0-100)	4+	£110,000	Two miles, four furlongs
05:35 PM	4:35pm	12:35pm	11:35am	10:35am	9:35am	The Wolferton Stakes (Listed)	4+	£120,000	One mile, two furlongs
06:10 PM	5:10pm	1:10pm	12:10pm	11:10am	10:10am	The Copper Horse Stakes (Handicap) (Class 2) (0-105)	4+	£110,000	One mile, six furlongs



## WEDNESDAY - JUNE 18, 2025

Local Time	UTC	EDT	CDT	MDT	PDT	Race	Age	Prize Fund	Distance
02:30 PM	1:30pm	9:30am	8:30am	7:30am	6:30am	The Queen Mary Stakes (Group 2)	2 fillies	£150,000	Five Furlongs
03:05 PM	2:05pm	10:05am	9:05am	8:05am	7:05am	The Queen's Vase (Group 2)	3	£265,000	One Mile, Six Furlongs
03:40 PM	2:40pm	10:40am	9:40am	8:40am	7:40am	The Duke of Cambridge Stakes (Group 2)	4+ F/M	£225,000	Old Mile
04:20 PM	3:20pm	11:20am	10:20am	9:20am	8:20am	The Prince of Wales's Stakes (Group 1)*	4+	£1,000,000	One Mile, two furlongs
05:00 PM	4:00pm	12:00pm	11:00am	10:00am	9:00am	The Royal Hunt Cup (Heritage Handicap) (Class 2) (Open)	3+	£175,000	Straight Mile
05:35 PM	4:35pm	12:35pm	11:35am	10:35am	9:35am	The Kensington Palace Stakes (Handicap) (Class 2)	4+ F/M	£110,000	Straight Mile
06:10 PM	5:10pm	1:10pm	12:10pm	11:10am	10:10am	The Windsor Castle Stakes (Listed)	2	£110,000	Five Furlongs

## THURSDAY - JUNE 19, 2025

Local Time	UTC	EDT	CDT	MDT	PDT	Race	Age	Prize Fund	Distance
2:30pm	1:30pm	9:30am	8:30am	7:30am	6:30am	The Norfolk Stakes (Group 2)	2	£150,000	Five furlongs
3:05pm	2:05pm	10:05am	9:05am	8:05am	7:05am	The King George V Stakes (Handicap)	3	£110,000	One mile, four furlongs
3:40pm	2:40pm	10:40am	9:40am	8:40am	7:40am	The Ribblesdale Stakes (Group 2)	3 fillies	£250,000	One mile, four furlongs
4:20pm	3:20pm	11:20am	10:00am	9:20am	8:20am	The Gold Cup (Group 1)	4+	£650,000	Two miles, four furlongs
5:00pm	4:00pm	12:00pm	11:00am	10:00am	9:00am	The Britannia Stakes (Heritage Handicap)	3 C/G	£120,000	Straight mile
5:35pm	4:35pm	12:35pm	11:35am	10:35am	9:35am	The Hampton Court Stakes (Group 3)	3	£150,000	One mile, two furlongs
6:10pm	5:10pm	1:10pm	12:10pm	11:10am	10:10am	The Buckingham Palace Stakes (Handicap)	3+	£110,000	Seven furlongs



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FRIDAY - JUNE 20, 2025

Local Time	UTC	EDT	CDT	MDT	PDT	Race	Age	Prize Fund	Distance
2:30pm	1:30pm	9:30am	8:30am	7:30am	6:30am	The Albany Stakes (Group 3)	2 fillies	£125,000	Six furlongs
3:05pm	2:05pm	10:05am	9:05am	8:05am	7:05am	The Commonwealth Cup (Group 1)	3 C/F	£650,000	Six furlongs
3:40pm	2:40pm	10:40am	9:40am	8:40am	7:40am	The Duke of Edinburgh Stakes (Handicap)	3+	£110,000	One mile, four furlongs
4:20pm	3:20pm	11:20am	10:20am	9:20am	8:20am	The Coronation Stakes (Group 1)	3 fillies	£650,000	Old mile
5:00pm	4:00pm	12:00pm	11:00am	10:00am	9:00am	The Sandringham Stakes (Handicap)	3 fillies	£110,000	One mile
5:35pm	4:35pm	12:35pm	11:35am	10:35am	9:35am	The King Edward VII Stakes (Group 2)	3 C/G	£250,000	One mile, four furlongs
6:10pm	5:10pm	1:10pm	12:10pm	11:10am	10:10am	The Palace of Holyroodhouse Stakes (Handicap)	3	£110,000	Five furlongs

SATURDAY - JUNE 21, 2025

Local Time	UTC	EDT	CDT	MDT	PDT	Race	Age	Prize Fund	Distance
2:30pm	1:30pm	9:30am	8:30am	7:30am	6:30am	The Chesham Stakes (Listed)	2	£100,000	Seven furlongs
3:05pm	2:05pm	10:05am	9:05am	8:05am	7:05am	The Hardwicke Stakes (Group 2)	4+	£225,000	One mile, four furlongs
3:40pm	2:40pm	10:40am	9:40am	8:40am	7:40am	The Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Stakes (Group 1)	4+	£100,000	Six furlongs
4:20pm	3:20pm	11:20am	10:20am	9:20am	8:20am	The Jersey Stakes (Group 3)	3	£150,000	Seven furlongs
5:00pm	4:00pm	12:00pm	11:00am	10:00am	9:00am	The Wokingham Stakes (Heritage Handicap)	3+	£175,000	Six furlongs
5:35pm	4:35pm	12:35pm	11:35am	10:35am	9:35am	The Golden Gates Stakes (Handicap)	3	£100,000	One mile, two furlongs
6:10pm	5:10pm	1:10pm	12:10pm	11:10am	10:10am	The Queen Alexandra Stakes (Conditions)	4+	£100,000	Two miles, six furlongs



# ROYAL ASCOT FAQ: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

by Vance Hanson

## WHAT IS ROYAL ASCOT?

One of the annual highlights of the English social calendar, Royal Ascot is a five-day fixture held at Ascot Racecourse outside London which offers a mixture of unparalleled, high-class racing, royal pageantry, and high fashion. Memorably depicted in the Oscar-winning musical "My Fair Lady," Royal Ascot is a highly formal affair where attendees adhere to a strict dress code. In all enclosures, ladies are required to wear hats or headpieces while suits with ties are required of gentlemen. Black or gray morning dress with top hats is required for gentlemen in the famed Royal Enclosure.



## WHEN IS ROYAL ASCOT AND HOW MANY PEOPLE ATTEND?

Royal Ascot runs from Tuesday, June 17 through Saturday, June 21. More than 250,000 racegoers attend across the five days in normal times.

## WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE RACECOURSE ITSELF?

Racing has been held at Ascot since 1711, when Queen Anne chose the site as an ideal spot for racing while on a drive from her nearby residence at Windsor Castle. The current grandstand, considered among the finest in the world, opened in 2006 with a budget of £220 million. The course is right-handed and triangular shaped with a circumference of approximately 1 3/4 miles. One-mile races begin from one of two chutes. The Old Mile starts from a chute near Swinley Bottom, while mile races are also held over a straight course that extends beyond the head of the stretch. All races contested at seven furlongs or less are run over a straight course.

## WHAT TIME DO THE RACES START AND HOW MANY ARE THERE?

Post time each day is 9:30 a.m. (EDT) (2:30 p.m. local time). Seven races are held daily, and purses over the five-day meet will total more than £10 million.

## WHAT IS THE ROYAL PROCESSION?

Approximately 30-40 minutes before the first race each day, His Majesty King Charles III and the Royal party are driven down Ascot's one-mile straight in horse-drawn carriages to the cheers of those in attendance. The procession ends when The King disembarks from his carriage in the saddling ring.

## IS ROYAL ASCOT AN INTERNATIONAL EVENT?

Technological innovations in communications and the continued ease in transport of horses have made Royal Ascot an increasingly global event. Enticed by its prestige and prize money, Royal Ascot has attracted leading Thoroughbreds from Australia, Japan, Hong Kong, Dubai, and the United States to compete against the very best from England, Ireland, and France. Trainer Wesley Ward has been a trailblazer among American horsemen pointing for Royal Ascot, primarily with juvenile runners. He's trained a dozen Royal Ascot winners since 2009. The most prominent American-based horse to win a race at Royal Ascot was the two-time champion turf mare Tepin, who beat the boys in the 2016 Queen Anne (G1).

## WHAT KIND OF RACES ARE HELD AT ROYAL ASCOT?

Of the 35 races, 22 are Group or Listed stakes. Eight of these 22 are Group 1s. The remainder are long-standing handicaps, most of which have been Royal Ascot features for decades. They tend to attract disproportionately large fields.

## WHAT ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF DAY 1?

Arguably the classiest of the five racing days with three Group 1 events. The Queen Anne, for older milers, is always the first race of the meet. Three-year-old colt milers compete in the St James's Palace, while the King Charles III (formerly the King's Stand) is a premier five-furlong sprint. The Coventry (G2) is traditionally the first stakes of the week for two-year-olds, while the Ascot Sakes (handicap) is one of the longer races of the meet at 2 1/2 miles.

## WHAT ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF DAY 2?

The Prince of Wales's (G1), weight-for-age over 1 1/4 miles, is one of the two richest races held at Royal Ascot with a purse of £1 million. The Duke of Cambridge (G2) for filly-and-mare milers, the Queen Mary (G2) for two-year-old fillies, and the Queen's Vase (G2) for three-year-old stayers are the other Group offerings. The Royal Hunt Cup (handicap) is a figurative stampede over the straight mile course.

## WHAT ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF DAY 3?

One of the larger crowds of the week (Ladies Day) is in attendance for the centerpiece of every Royal Ascot meet, the famed Gold Cup (G1) over 2 1/2 miles. The Ribblesdale (G2) is an historic middle-distance test for three-year-old fillies over 1 1/2 miles, while the Norfolk (G2) attracts some of the more precocious two-year-olds to dash five furlongs.

### WHAT ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF DAY 4?

The Coronation (G1) for three-year-old fillies milers is the traditional highlight but now shares the day with the Commonwealth Cup (G1), a relatively new race for three-year-old colt and filly sprinters run over six furlongs. The King Edward VII (G2), for three-year-olds over 1 1/2 miles, is colloquially known as the “Ascot Derby.”

### WHAT ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF DAY 5?

A fifth day of Royal Ascot was added in 2002. The most lucrative race is the £1 million Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee (G1), a six-furlong sprint renamed in honor of the late Queen, who passed away in September 2022. The 1 1/2-mile Hardwicke (G2) often attracts top-notch middle-distance performers. Two-year-olds are featured in the Chesham Stakes, while the meet-closing Queen Alexandra Stakes (conditions) over 2 3/4 miles remains the longest race run under Flat racing rules.

### ARE THERE ANY BREEDERS' CUP CHALLENGE RACES AT ROYAL ASCOT?

The Queen Anne (Mile) and King Charles III (Turf Sprint) on Tuesday, the Prince of Wales's (Turf) on Wednesday, and the Norfolk (Juvenile Turf Sprint) on Thursday are all Breeders' Cup “Win & You're In” Challenge preps. The swift Australian mare Asfoora is scheduled to mount a title defense in the King Charles III, with an eye toward competing at Del Mar this autumn.

### WHERE CAN WE WATCH ROYAL ASCOT RACES AND WHAT BETS ARE OFFERED?

In addition to the daily coverage available on NBC's Peacock streaming service and Saturday on the main NBC network (on Saturday), you can watch and wager on all 35 Royal Ascot races at TwinSpires.com. Win, Place (first three or four, depending on field size), Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, and Omni (pick two of the top three finishers in any order) wagering are available on virtually all races.

### WHERE CAN WE FIND MORE ROYAL ASCOT INFORMATION AND PAST PERFORMANCES?

Check out the TwinSpires EDGE throughout Royal Ascot week for opinions and analysis.





# ROYAL ASCOT GROUP RACE HISTORIES

## TUESDAY

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2025	Charyn	2nd Lockinge
2023	Triple Time	Layoff since October
2022	Baaeed	1st Lockinge
2021	Palace Pier	1st Lockinge
2020	Circus Maximus	Layoff since 4th BC Mile (US)
2019	Lord Glitters	13th Lockinge
2018	Accidental Agent	6th Lockinge
2017	Ribchester	1st Lockinge
2016	Tepin (f)	1st CD Distaff Turf Mile (US)
2015	Solow	1st Prix d'Ispahan
2014	Toronado	Layoff since August

### COVENTRY (G2), 2YO, SIX FURLONGS

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2024	Rashabar	2nd Chester
2023	River Tiber	1st Naas race
2022	Bradsell	1st York novice
2021	Berkshire Shadow	1st Newbury maiden
2020	Nando Parrado	5th Newmarket maiden
2019	Arizona	1st Curragh maiden
2018	Calyx	1st Newmarket novice
2017	Rajasinghe	1st Newcastle novice
2016	Caravaggio	1st Marble Hill
2015	Buratino	1st Woodcote
2014	The Wow Signal	1st Ayr maiden

### KING CHARLES III (G1), 3YO/UP, FIVE FURLONGS

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2024	Asfoora	4th Temple
2023	Bradsell	3rd Sandy Lane
2022	Nature Strip	1st T J Smith (AUS)
2021	Oxted	3rd Duke of York
2020	Battaash	Layoff since October
2019	Blue Point	1st Al Quoz Sprint (UAE)
2018	Blue Point	9th Chairman's Sprint Prize (HK)
2017	Lady Aurelia (f)	1st Giant's Causeway (US)
2016	Profitable	1st Temple
2015	Goldream	7th Temple
2014	Sole Power	1st Palace House

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2024	Rosallion	1st Irish 2000
2023	Paddington	1st Irish 2000 Guineas
2022	Coroebus	1st 2000 Guineas
2021	Poetic Flare	2nd Irish 2000 Guineas
2020	Palace Pier	1st Newcastle handicap
2019	Circus Maximus	6th Epsom Derby
2018	Without Parole	1st Heron
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

## WEDNESDAY

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2024	Leovanni	1st Nottingham
2023	Crimson Advocate	1st Royal Palm Juv Fillies (US)
2022	Dramatised	1st Newmarket maiden
2021	Quick Suzy	2nd Naas Fillies Sprint
2020	Campanelle	1st Gulfstream maiden (US)
2019	Raffle Prize	1st Chester maiden
2018	Signora Cabello	1st Marygate
2017	Heartache	1st Bath novice
2016	Lady Aurelia	1st Keeneland maiden (US)
2015	Acapulco	3rd Churchill maiden (US)
2014	Anthem Alexander	1st Tipperary maiden

### QUEEN'S VASE (G2), 3YO, 1 3/4 MILES (2 MILES PRIOR TO 2017)

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2024	Illinois	2nd Lingfield
2023	Gregory	1st Cocked Hat
2022	Eldar Eldarov	1st Newcastle novice
2021	Kemari	1st Yarmouth maiden
2020	Santiago	Layoff since September
2019	Dashing Willoughby	3rd Chester Vase
2018	Kew Gardens	9th Epsom Derby
2017	Stradivarius	2nd Chester handicap
2016	Sword Fighter	3rd Naas race
2015	Aloft	Layoff since October
2014	Hartnell	2nd Lingfield Derby Trial

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2024	Running Lion	8th Princess
2023	Rogue Millennium	2nd Middleton
2022	Saffron Beach	4th Dubai Turf (UAE)
2021	Indie Angel	4th Dahlia
2020	Nazeef	1st Snowdrop
2019	Move Swiftly	Layoff since November
2018	Aljazzi	3rd Sandown Mile
2017	Qemah	2nd Chartwell Fillies'
2016	Usherette	1st Dahlia
2015	Amazing Maria	3rd Lanwades
2014	Integral	2nd Dahlia

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2024	Auguste Rodin	2nd Tattersalls Gold Cup
2023	Mostahdaf	4th Dubai Sheema Classic (UAE)
2022	State of Rest	3rd Tattersalls Gold Cup
2021	Love (f)	Layoff since August
2020	Lord North	1st Brigadier Gerard
2019	Crystal Ocean	1st Al Rayyan/Aston Park
2018	Poet's Word	1st Brigadier Gerard
2017	Highland Reel	1st Coronation Cup
2016	My Dream Boat	5th Prix d'Isphahan
2015	Free Eagle	Layoff since October
2014	The Fugue (f)	11th Dubai Duty Free (UAE)



## THURSDAY

#### NORFOLK (G2), 2YO, FIVE FURLONGS

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2024	Shareholder	1st Two-Yr-Old
2023	Valiant Force	5th Marble Hill
2022	The Ridler	3rd Two-Yr-Old Trophy
2021	Perfect Power	1st Hamilton maiden
2020	The Lir Jet	1st Yarmouth novice
2019	A'Ali	2nd Ripon novice
2018	Shang Shang Shang (f)	1st Keeneland maiden (US)
2017	Sioux Nation	6th Marble Hill
2016	Prince of Lir	1st Brian Yeardley
2015	Waterloo Bridge	1st Tipperary maiden
2014	Baitha Alga	1st Woodcote

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2024	Port Fairy	2nd Cheshire Oaks
2023	Warm Heart	1st Bouquetot Fillies' Trial
2022	Magical Lagoon	2nd Salsabil
2021	Loving Dream	5th Lingfield Oaks Trial
2020	Frankly Darling	1st Newcastle maiden
2019	Star Catcher	3rd Bouquetot Fillies' Trial
2018	Magic Wand	4th Oaks
2017	Coronet	5th Oaks
2016	Even Song	3rd Pretty Polly
2015	Curvy	1st Gallinule
2014	Bracelet	14th 1000 Guineas

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2024	Kyprios	1st Saval Beg
2023	Courage Mon Ami	1st Goodwood Handicap
2022	Kyprios	1st Saval Beg
2021	Subjectivist	1st Dubai Gold Cup
2020	Stradivarius	3rd Coronation Cup
2019	Stradivarius	1st Yorkshire Cup
2018	Stradivarius	1st Yorkshire Cup
2017	Big Orange	1st Henry II
2016	Order of St George	1st Saval Beg
2015	Trip to Paris	2nd Henry II
2014	Leading Light	1st Vintage Crop

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2024	Jayarebe	3rd Dee
2023	Waipiro	6th Epsom Derby
2022	Claymore	15th French 2000 Guineas
2021	Mohaafeth	1st Newmarket S.
2020	Russian Emperor	2nd Derrinstown Stud
2019	Sangarius	3rd Heron
2018	Hunting Horn	6th French Derby
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)



# FRIDAY

## ALBANY (G3), 2YO FILLIES, SIX FURLONGS

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2024	Fairy Godmother	1st Naas Fillies' Sprint
2023	Porta Fortuna	1st Naas Fillies' Sprint
2022	Meditate	1st Naas Fillies' Sprint
2021	Sandrine	1st Kempton novice
2020	Dandalla	1st Newcastle maiden
2019	Daahyeh	1st Newmarket novice
2018	Main Edition	1st Goodwood novice
2017	Different League	1st Angers conditions
2016	Brave Anna	1st Curragh maiden
2015	Illuminate	1st Salisbury conditions

## COMMONWEALTH CUP (G1), 3YO, SIX FURLONGS

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2024	Inisherin	1st Sandy Lane
2023	Shaquille	1st Carnarvon
2022	Perfect Power	7th 2000 Guineas
2021	Campanelle (f)	Layoff since 4th BC Juv Fillies Turf (US)
2020	Golden Horde	Layoff since September
2019	Advertise	15th 2000 Guineas
2018	Eqtidaar	4th Carnarvon
2017	Caravaggio	1st Lacken
2016	Quiet Reflection (f)	1st Sandy Lane

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2024	Porta Fortuna	2nd 1000 Guineas
2023	Tahiyra	1st Irish 1000 Guineas
2022	Inspiral	Layoff since October
2021	Alcohol Free	5th 1000 Guineas
2020	Alpine Star	Layoff since August
2019	Watch Me	6th French 1000 Guineas
2018	Alpha Centauri	1st Irish 1000 Guineas
2017	Winter	1st Irish 1000 Guineas
2016	Qemah	3rd French 1000 Guineas
2015	Ervedya	1st French 1000 Guineas

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2024	Calandagan	1st Prix Hocquart
2023	King of Steel	2nd Epsom Derby
2022	Changingoftheguard	5th Epsom Derby
2021	Alenquer	1st Sandown Classic Trial
2020	Pyledriver	2nd Classic Trial
2019	Japan	3rd Epsom Derby
2018	Old Persian	1st Fairway
2017	Permian	10th Epsom Derby
2016	Across the Stars	10th Epsom Derby
2015	Balios	2nd Newmarket S.

# SATURDAY

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2024	Isle of Jura	1st Festival
2023	Pyledriver	Layoff since July
2022	Broome	5th Tattersalls Gold Cup
2021	Wonderful Tonight (f)	Layoff since October
2020	Fanny Logan (f)	2nd Pinnacle
2019	Defoe	1st Coronation Cup
2018	Crystal Ocean	1st Al Rayyan/Aston Park
2017	Idaho	6th Coronation Cup
2016	Dartmouth	1st Ormonde
2015	Snow Sky	1st Yorkshire Cup

## QUEEN ELIZABETH II JUBILEE (G1), 4YO/UP, SIX FURLONGS

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2024	Khaadem	13th Duke of York
2023	Khaadem	3rd Cathedral
2022	Naval Crown	4th Al Quoz Sprint (UAE)
2021	Dream of Dreams	1st Leisure S.
2020	Hello Youmzain	Layoff since October
2019	Blue Point	1st King's Stand
2018	Merchant Navy	1st Greenlands
2017	The Tin Man	5th Duke of York
2016	Twilight Son	5th Duke of York
2015	Undrafted	2nd TwinSpires Turf Sprint (US)

## JERSEY (G3), 3YO, SEVEN FURLONGS

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2024	Haatem	2nd Irish 2000 Guineas
2023	Age of Kings	10th Irish 2000 Guineas
2022	Noble Truth	1st King Charles II
2021	Creative Force	1st Carnarvon S.
2020	Molatham	Layoff since October
2019	Space Traveller	7th Tourisme de Maisons-Laffitte
2018	Expert Eye	10th 2000 Guineas
2017	Le Brivido	2nd French 2000 Guineas
2016	Ribchester	3rd 2000 Guineas
2015	Dutch Connection	7th 2000 Guineas

# THE INAUGURAL FIRST OFFICIAL ROYAL ASCOT TOURNAMENT



TwinSpires.com, the official online betting partner of the Kentucky Derby, is expanding its repertoire of tournaments to an iconic event on the international stage – Royal Ascot.

On each day of the prestigious meeting, June 17-21, 2025, TwinSpires.com's **Royal Ascot Challenge Series** will offer horseplayers opportunities to compete for cash prizes as well as potential seats at upcoming tournaments. All Royal Ascot tournaments will be live bankroll that allow Win, Place, Exacta, and Trifecta wager types.

The first four tournaments, scheduled for Tuesday, June 17, through Friday, June 20, will serve as Royal Ascot “feeders” for the grand finale, the Royal Ascot Challenge on Saturday, June 21. Prizes for the Royal Ascot Challenge include cash and a potential seat in the June 28 **Stephen Foster Betting Challenge** (SFBC) on an action-packed closing weekend at Churchill Downs, the home of the Kentucky Derby.

Darin Zoccali, Director of Loyalty and Retention at TwinSpires, commented on the exciting extension of tournament play into the international arena:

“Each year American horseplayers have become increasingly interested in the Royal Ascot meet, and at TwinSpires we have seen that enthusiasm reflected in both player engagement and wagering handle on Ascot.

“TwinSpires Tournaments in partnership with Ascot is thrilled to announce the inaugural Royal Ascot Challenge Series. Each day of the meet, we will offer a tournament with cash prizes and the potential to unlock seats into the \$500 Royal Ascot Challenge on Saturday, June 21st, as well as the \$3,000 Stephen Foster Betting Challenge on Saturday, June 28th.

“We hope the players are as excited as we are as this has the potential to expand TwinSpires Tournaments even further into the international racing landscape.”

## HERE ARE THE DETAILS FOR THE ROYAL ASCOT CHALLENGE SERIES:

- **Tuesday, June 17** - \$150 buy-in (\$100 bankroll/\$50 prize pool) - \$35 of prize pool goes towards cash prizes and \$15 of prize pool goes towards seats – 33 entries needed to give away a seat to Saturday (otherwise a full cash tournament)
- **Wednesday, June 18** - \$150 buy-in (\$100 bankroll/\$50 prize pool) - \$35 of prize pool goes towards cash prizes and \$15 of prize pool goes towards seats – 33 entries needed to give away a seat to Saturday (otherwise a full cash tournament)
- **Thursday, June 19** - \$100 buy-in (\$75 bankroll/\$25 prize pool) - \$15 of prize pool goes towards cash prizes and \$10 of prize pool goes towards seats – 50 entries needed to give away a seat to Saturday (otherwise a full cash tournament)
- **Friday, June 20** - \$200 buy-in (\$150 bankroll/\$50 prize pool) - \$35 of prize pool goes towards cash prizes and \$15 of prize pool goes towards seats – 33 entries needed to give away a seat to Saturday (otherwise a full cash tournament)
- **Saturday, June 21** - \$500 buy-in (\$350 bankroll/\$150 prize pool) - \$100 of prize pool goes towards cash prizes and \$50 of prize pool goes towards seats – 60 entries needed to give away seat to Stephen Foster Betting Challenge (otherwise a full cash tournament)

Jeremy Jones of TwinSpires highlighted the significance of bringing together bettors of diverse interests. Regular tournament players, and those more focused on racing abroad, can tackle the challenge of Royal Ascot handicapping in the tournament milieu.

“We are excited to provide tournament players with the ability to compete at one of the best international racing events with the Royal Ascot meet,” Jones said. “We also are excited to introduce handicappers who follow international racing into the tournament scene with TwinSpires and allow them to use their skills to compete for a little extra cash on top of their wagers.”

**Registration is now open** for the Royal Ascot Challenge Series. To register, and see the official rules, visit [twinspires.com/bet/tournaments](https://twinspires.com/bet/tournaments).

DATE	TOURNAMENT	SEAT IMPLICATIONS	MIN # OF RACES	WAGER TYPES
TUE, JUNE 17	\$150 ROYAL ASCOT CASH FEEDER	ONE (1) ROYAL ASCOT CHALLENGE SEAT ( F 33 ENTRIES)	4	WIN, PLACE, EXACTA, TRIFECTA
WED, JUNE 18	\$150 ROYAL ASCOT CASH FEEDER	ONE (1) ROYAL ASCOT CHALLENGE SEAT ( F 33 ENTRIES)	4	WIN, PLACE, EXACTA, TRIFECTA
THUR, JUNE 19	\$100 ROYAL ASCOT CASH FEEDER	ONE (1) ROYAL ASCOT CHALLENGE SEAT ( F 50 ENTRIES)	4	WIN, PLACE, EXACTA, TRIFECTA
FRI, JUNE 20	\$200 ROYAL ASCOT CASH FEEDER	ONE (1) ROYAL ASCOT CHALLENGE SEAT ( F 33 ENTRIES)	4	WIN, PLACE, EXACTA, TRIFECTA
SAT, JUNE 21	\$500 ROYAL ASCOT CHALLENGE	ONE (1) STEPHEN FOSTER BETTING CHALLENGE SEAT (IF 60 ENTRIES)	4	WIN, PLACE, EXACTA, TRIFECTA



# HOW TO HANDICAP ROYAL ASCOT STAKES FOR JUVENILES

by Vance Hanson

One of the distinguishing features of Royal Ascot is the six stakes devoted to two-year-olds during the annual five-day meeting. Ranging in distance from five to seven furlongs, these races typically attract fields of more than a dozen and often approach 20.

To American bettors generally unfamiliar with English racing, and increasingly used to not having to sift through large fields, attempting to find a winner among a group of green, inexperienced runners being asked to careen down the long Ascot straight sounds like a virtually impossible task.

Let me argue otherwise.

Having provided daily selections for Days 3 and 4 at Royal Ascot since 2011, first at Brisnet.com and now on TwinSpires.com, I've had an opportunity to hone skills for this handicapping puzzle. Two races I proffer an opinion on every year are the Norfolk (G2), a five-furlong event on Day 3 (Thursday), and the six-furlong Albany (G3) for fillies on Day 4 (Friday). I have publicly endorsed the following winners of the Norfolk and Albany over the past 14 years:

## NORFOLK

Year	Horse	Closing UK Odds
2019	A'Ali	5-1
2020	The Lir Jet	9-2
2021	Perfect Power	14-1
2022	The Ridler	50-1

## ALBANY

Year	Horse	Closing UK Odds
2011	Samitar	16-1
2012	Newfangled	7-4
2013	Kiyoshi	10-1
2015	Illuminate	4-1
2019	Daahyeh	4-1

My approach to handicapping these juvenile features generally involves a three-step process:

### 1. CHECKING BRISNET.COM PEDIGREE REPORTS

Once the final fields are announced 48 hours out, I immediately run Brisnet.com's Catalog page product (#750) and other reports to get an overview of the family history of the runners involved. In particular, I note horses whose sires and/or dams were precocious enough to earn black type in short races like these early in the season. A winning family history over the Ascot course itself is a plus. I also take note of any horses who might be closely related to others that share these qualities.



### 2. VIDEO WORK

Whether using TwinSpires.com's library for full race coverage or condensed footage uploaded to social media services like Twitter, watching replays is essential. For myself, I don't generally need to watch full races. Re-watching the final two or three furlongs of a past race is enough for me to judge whether something about the horse "catches the eye" or not.

Admittedly, this is the most subjective part of the process. It's hard to put into words what I look for or what impresses me, but I know it when I see it. It's basically judging how the horse moves and whether he or she shows enough signs of relative maturity for its age to potentially handle the task at hand. I'll make a mental or short note whether a past victory impresses the eye enough, or whether a troubled trip might have cost the horse a better placing.

### 3. CONSULT THE RATINGS

There are several prominent ratings services in Britain that provide opinions on the quality of past races for not only juveniles but for all horses running in the major countries of Europe. While these and their accompanying analyses won't make me reconsider horses I've decided to eliminate after steps 1 and 2, they often help determine my final selection when the choice is down to a handful of prospects or fewer. Unlike speed figures generally, higher ratings don't necessarily mean the horses are faster or the right play.

There are, of course, other minor factors to consider. For example, surface condition is somewhat intertwined with pedigree and past performance, while past trainer success in the race you're handicapping is always something to keep in mind. However, the three main steps above take precedence over these.

# ROYAL ASCOT 2025: FIVE STARS TO WATCH

by Kellie Reilly

By definition, Royal Ascot showcases star performers throughout its festive week. Here's one to watch for each of the five days.

## **TUESDAY – FIELD OF GOLD IN ST JAMES'S PALACE (G1)**

Juddmonte's Field of Gold is odds-on to gain revenge on Ruling Court, who benefited from a better ride to upstage him in the 2000 Guineas (G1) at Newmarket. With a jockey switch to Colin Keane next time out at the Curragh, Field of Gold bolted up in the Irish 2000 Guineas (G1) to stake his claim as the leading three-year-old miler. The St James's Palace (G1) promises to be the definitive rematch.

## **WEDNESDAY – CINDERELLA'S DREAM IN DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE (G2)**

The featured Prince of Wales's (G1) is usually the place to go for the star of the day, but the market is much more one-sided in the preceding Duke of Cambridge (G2). Godolphin's Cinderella's Dream is all the rage to follow up on her annihilation of the Dahlia (G2) last time out. Although the Charlie Appleby filly is shortening up to a mile, she figures to get her preferred quick conditions. U.S. fans will remember her exploits from last season, including an unlucky second in the Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf (G1).

## **THURSDAY – ILLINOIS IN GOLD CUP (G1)**

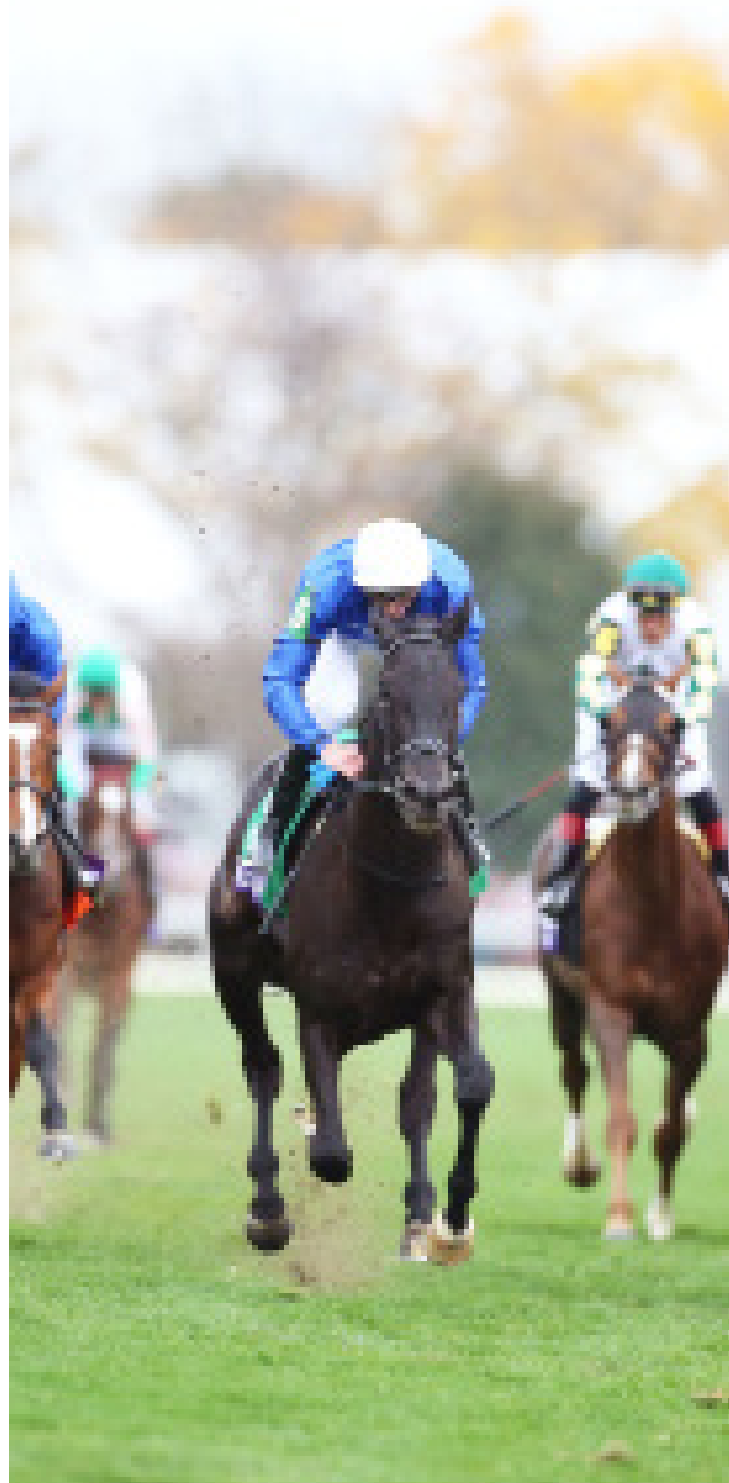
The recent retirement of all-time great stayer Kyprios has opened the door for his younger stablemate, Illinois, to try the Gold Cup (G1). Suddenly thrust into the role of favorite, the Aidan O'Brien colt has the class. The uncertainty is whether he will stay the testing 2 1/2-mile trip. The master of Ballydoyle is keeping the faith in Illinois, a Galileo half-brother to 2011 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (G1) romper Danedream.

## **FRIDAY – ZARIGANA IN CORONATION (G1)**

If France has several serious chances over the course of the meeting, Zarigana is the one attracting the most antepost action as the clear Coronation (G1) favorite. A granddaughter of unbeaten Zarkava, the late Aga Khan's homebred was just awarded the victory in the Poule d'Essai des Pouliches (French 1000 Guineas) (G1) via disqualification. Zarigana has a tendency to cut it close, but she keeps hinting that there's more up her sleeve. Trainer Francis-Henri Graffard preferred to target this mile feature rather than stretching out for the Prix de Diane (French Oaks) (G1).

## **SATURDAY – KALPANA IN HARDWICKE (G2)**

While two-time Breeders' Cup Turf (G1) champion Rebel's Romance is the most decorated veteran in the Hardwicke (G2), Juddmonte's Kalpana has budding star written all over her. The Andrew Balding filly ranks among the leading antepost fancies for the Arc, and her comeback third in the Tattersalls Gold Cup (G1) – to Prince of Wales's principals Los Angeles and Anmaat – was full of merit. Kalpana had other options, but Balding reportedly wanted to see her back up to her optimal 1 1/2-mile trip here.





# NORTH AMERICAN RUNNERS IN ASCOT RACES FOR THE WEEK

by Kellie Reilly



## CARL SPACKLER LEADS U.S. SHIPPERS

Although Wesley Ward will not be represented at Royal Ascot 2025, there is plenty of U.S. interest over the course of the week. Carl Spackler, now Australian-trained since his private purchase, makes his first international appearance in the meet-opening Queen Anne (G1) on Tuesday. Sophomore filly Shisospicy furnishes the bookend Friday when she takes on the boys in the Commonwealth Cup (G1).

Several U.S. shippers are expected in the juvenile races, including graduates of both Royal Palm Juvenile events who earned automatic entries and travel subsidies at Gulfstream Park. Royal Palm Juvenile Fillies heroine Lennilu lines up in Wednesday's Queen Mary (G2) for Patrick Biancone. Runner-up Bibi Dahl, also entered in the Queen Mary, is reportedly bound for Friday's Albany (G3). Royal Palm star Sandal's Song goes in Thursday's Norfolk (G2), one day after his George Weaver stablemate, Tough Critic, contests the Windsor Castle S.

## CARL SPACKLER - TUESDAY'S QUEEN ANNE (G1)

When Carl Spackler returned to action with a stellar performance in the April 11 Maker's Mark Mile (G1) at Keeneland, the Chad Brown trainee appeared to have a stranglehold on the domestic turf milers' division. The logical spots at his beloved Saratoga were at his mercy. But his horizons were suddenly broadened after Yulong Investments swooped in to acquire him, with a long-term view toward Australia's Cox Plate (G1).

The nom de course of Yuesheng Zhang, Yulong has made quite a splash with its recruits. Chief among them is Irish-bred Via Sistina, who recently equaled the great Winx's record of seven Group 1 wins in a single season.

Yulong's interest in Carl Spackler, another Irish-bred, is eminently logical. He's by the same terrific sire, Lope de Vega, as their Group 1-winning Lucky Vega, a shuttle stallion who is off to a fast start with his first crop.

Carl Spackler, formerly with Brown's string at Saratoga, will race in the name of Australian trainer Ciaran Maher. Currently based in Newmarket to prepare for his Royal Ascot venture, the flashy chestnut impressed in his recent work over the July course. Maher's head of bloodstock, Will Bourne, is on the premises to supervise. As a multiple Grade 1 winner with an affinity for Keeneland, Carl Spackler might spark a comparison to Hall of Famer Tepin, so far the only non-European to win the Queen Anne. But there are a few contrasts as well.

The most obvious difference, aside from the fact that Tepin was a mare receiving a weight allowance, is that she was the reigning Breeders' Cup Mile (G1) winner. Carl Spackler was a subpar sixth in last November's edition at Del Mar, admittedly in a race shape that didn't suit. He'd beaten Mile winner More Than Looks in their previous meetings. And even in his Mile loss, Carl Spackler wasn't that far behind third-placer Notable Speech, the Mile favorite, who re-opposes in the Queen Anne.

Other differences with Tepin may be more salient. Tepin stayed 1 1/8 miles stateside, suggesting that she had the stamina for the straight mile at Ascot. Carl Spackler is untested beyond 1 1/16 miles, and it's an open question of how he'll handle a stiffer track. His new connections apparently think he'll stay about 1 1/4 miles in the Cox Plate, at least on the tight circuit of Moonee Valley. Finally, Tepin picked a good year to invade, but Carl Spackler faces an arguably more robust cast than she did, in a marquee event that he wasn't originally targeting.

Carl Spackler has the inherent class to factor, although he's more of a place hope than win candidate in the circumstances. I would have preferred a long laid-out plan rather than a dramatic plot twist. Top jockey James McDonald, the regular pilot of Via Sistina as well as Hong Kong legend Romantic Warrior, will give him every chance.

## LENNILU - WEDNESDAY'S QUEEN MARY (G2)

So impressive was Lennilu in the Royal Palm Juvenile Fillies, her first attempt on turf, that the Biancone runner is trading as the second choice in the antepost market for the Queen Mary. Bettors abroad recognize a parallel with Crimson Advocate, the winner of the inaugural Royal Palm Juvenile Fillies who went on to upset the Queen Mary in 2023.

Lennilu actually sports a better record (2-for-2) than Crimson Advocate did at this stage. While Crimson Advocate was only third in her unveiling on the Keeneland dirt, Lennilu won first time out in the slop at Keeneland April 6. The 2.75-1 chance chased the pace, angled out, and rallied past the pacesetter by a length.

With a pedigree to relish the switch to turf, Lennilu went off as the 4-5 favorite in her Royal Palm event. She showed plenty of early dash to force the issue, took over in hand on the far turn, and bounded 3

3/4 lengths clear. Her final five-furlong time of :56.42 was just off the :56.30 posted by the colt Sandal's Song, but he had competition down the lane.

Lennilu is a superb advertisement for freshman sire Leinster, a classy turf sprinter who set course records at Saratoga and Keeneland. Leinster is himself a half-brother to champion Stormy Liberal, a two-time victor of the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (G1). Moreover, Lennilu's dam is a half-sister to millionaire Disco Partner, who scorched six furlongs in a record 1:05.67 over the Belmont turf.

#### **TOUGH CRITIC – WEDNESDAY'S WINDSOR CASTLE S.**

Thanks to Crimson Advocate, Weaver is already on the Royal Ascot honor roll. He returns not only with Sandal's Song, who picked up the Royal Palm perks, but also with his Keeneland debut winner Tough Critic.

Bred for success here, Tough Critic is a son of Caravaggio, who twice won at the Royal meeting as a well-backed Aidan O'Brien favorite. He captured the Coventry (G2) at two and justified odds-on favoritism in the Commonwealth Cup at three. Tough Critic's dam adds another Royal Ascot element as a half-sister to Radiohead, the upset winner of the 2009 Norfolk.

Off a beat slow in his April 24 premiere on the turf at Keeneland, Tough Critic launched a sustained rally to prevail at odds of 6.72-1. His cause was assisted by the leader's tiring. Still, Tough Critic was the only one able to capitalize. He won going away by 1 1/4 lengths in 1:04.73 for 5 1/2 furlongs.

Tough Critic was immediately supplemented to Keeneland's April Sale. It could be significant that Weaver put together a partnership to buy him for \$350,000, thereby ensuring that the promising juvenile stayed in his barn.

As a New York-bred, Tough Critic will have many opportunities to be a money-spinner in the restricted stakes ranks. That might be more realistic than Royal Ascot, but as with all the two-year-olds in these ferociously contentious affairs, he has a license to improve.

#### **SANDAL'S SONG – THURSDAY'S NORFOLK (G2)**

Sandal's Song stamped himself as a potentially smart performer not just by winning the Royal Palm Juvenile in his career debut, but by the way he did it.

Drawn in the potentially problematic post 1, the 7.90-1 shot didn't help himself by taking a hop out of the gate and getting away last. Sandal's Song raced through his gears with alacrity to secure good stalking position, and he was traveling like a man among boys when seeking room on the far turn. He drove through the seam, attacked 9-10 favorite Squire (Lennilu's stablemate), and pulled away despite sticking to his left lead. Sandal's Song clocked a slightly faster time of :56.30, compared to Lennilu's :56.42.

The Weaver pupil caught the eye of Wathnan Racing, the Qatari-based entity with a flair for snapping up Royal Ascot contenders. He will add to their already loaded team.

Sandal's Song is bred to be more than a precocious sprinter. By Mendelssohn, the 2017 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G1) hero and a top-caliber dirt horse at three, he is out of a mare who is closely related to a pair of notable winners. His dam is a three-quarter sister to two-time Bernard Baruch (G2) scorer Qurbaan and to Dubai dirt veteran Qareeb, winner of this year's Jebel Ali Mile (G3).

#### **BIBI DAHL – FRIDAY'S ALBANY (G3)**

Bibi Dahl's debut second to Lennilu in the Royal Palm Juvenile Fillies indicated that a step up in trip was advisable. Thus the six-furlong Albany is her port of call, according to Daily Racing Form.

Owned by Kia Joorabchian's burgeoning Amo Racing USA and trained by Jorge Delgado, Bibi Dahl showed a good attitude when easily best of the rest at Gulfstream. The 7.20-1 shot was ridden along to secure position a few lengths off the lead early, but she kept responding and hit her best stride down the lane. Bibi Dahl emerged as the only rival able to stay in the picture with Lennilu, if at a respectful distance, and she drew 5 1/4 lengths clear of third.

Although Bibi Dahl needs to move forward as a once-raced maiden, her stock would rise if Lennilu runs up to her reputation in the Queen Mary. And as a \$1.35 million Keeneland September yearling, Bibi Dahl has pedigree power. The American Pharoah filly is a full sister to the brilliant Forbidden Kingdom. Their dam, Just Louise, peaked at two when she landed the Debutante (G3) at Churchill Downs.

#### **SHISOSPICY – FRIDAY'S COMMONWEALTH CUP (G1)**

Trainer Jose D'Angelo, who nearly won last year's Windsor Castle with Gabaldon, sends out the blazing Shisospicy in the Commonwealth Cup for three-year-old sprinters.

As with Carl Spackler, however, Royal Ascot wasn't on the itinerary until new ownership got involved. In her case, Qatar Racing has bought an interest from Shisospicy's owner, Morplay Racing, who will now campaign her in partnership. Unlike Carl Spackler, she's staying with her trainer and slated to resume her career stateside after this British detour.

The well-named daughter of champion sprinter Mitole has been a revelation since taking her game to turf. A perfect 3-for-3 on the surface, Shisospicy has displayed warp speed in turf dashes of five to 5 1/2 furlongs. A rain-affected course at Keeneland kept her margin to a mere half-length in the Limestone S., but the fireworks were back on firm ground at Churchill in the Mamzelle (G3).

Although a sunny forecast offers hope of quick conditions at Royal Ascot, a stiff six furlongs down the straightaway is liable to stretch her a bit, especially at this level versus males. The Breeders' Cup around a turning five furlongs at Del Mar, her ultimate goal, would cater more to her strengths.



# REVIEWING MY 14 YEARS OF HANDICAPPING ROYAL ASCOT

by Vance Hanson



The 2025 Royal Ascot meeting will be my 15th at offering selections on Thursday and Friday of the five-day fixture, which runs from June 17-21. My colleague Kellie Reilly and I began covering Royal Ascot in 2011, tag-teaming to provide a Daily Selections tipsheet that was initially sold at Brisnet.com. After a few years, we began offering our insights on a complimentary basis at Brisnet, and they have since gravitated to their permanent home on the TwinSpires Edge.

For me, Royal Ascot is one of the most anticipated weeks of the racing year. It's an intellectual handicapping challenge par excellence, affording an American like myself the opportunity to match wits against bettors in the U.K. and around the world, many of whom have the advantage of having their finger on the pulse of European racing on a more frequent basis. With generally large and competitive fields, the rewards for being right can be extremely lucrative.

As intellectually stimulating, fun, and colorful as Royal Ascot is, it's also a pressure cooker. Concentrating exclusively on Group stakes and omitting handicaps (which requires a significant time investment and a skillset I have not yet attempted to hone), my handicapping success or failure is determined by the results of a mere eight races over two days.

As many files and blogs have been lost to history, I had long ago given up hope of reconstructing a complete record of my winning Thursday and Friday selections over the years. However, through intense prowling of various hard drive and email records, I came up with what I believe is a very accurate table of winners selected on my annual two-day allotment.

What follows is an effort at transparency, and an opportunity for me to discern trends and make noteworthy observations about my selection-making process. Please note these are results of my Thursday and Friday selections only and do not account for published spot plays on other days of the meet I've made over the years. I've had varying success trespassing on Kellie Reilly's turf on the other days but attempts at such have been highly infrequent and those records are incomplete.

YEAR	RACE	WINNER	U.K. ODDS	U.S. PAYOFF
2011	Ribblesdale	Banimpire	3-1*	NA
	Albany	Samitar	16-1	NA
2012	Ribblesdale	Princess Highway	17-2	NA
	Tercentenary	Energizer	15-2	NA
	Albany	Newfangled	7-4*	NA
	Queen's Vase	Estimate	3-1*	NA
2013	Albany	Kiyoshi	8-1	NA
2014	Tercentenary	Cannock Chase	7-4*	NA
	Gold Cup	Leading Light	10-11*	NA
2015	Albany	Illuminate	4-1	NA
	King Edward VII	Balios	3-1	NA
2016	Ribblesdale	Even Song	15-8*	NA
	Gold Cup	Order of St George	10-11*	NA
	Commonwealth Cup	Quiet Reflection	7-4*	NA
	Coronation	Qemah	6-1	NA
2017	Commonwealth Cup	Caravaggio	5-6*	NA
2018	Commonwealth Cup	Eqtidaar	12-1	NA
2019	Norfolk	A'Ali	5-1	\$13.70
	Gold Cup	Stradivarius	1-1*	\$3.60
	Albany	Daahyeh	4-1*	\$12.50
	Commonwealth Cup	Advertise	8-1	\$17.50
2020	Jersey	Molatham	11-2	\$13.90
	Gold Cup	Stradivarius	4-5*	\$3.00
	Norfolk	The Lir Jet	9-2	\$14.50
2021	Norfolk	Perfect Power	14-1	\$31.60
	King Edward VII	Alenquer	15-8*	\$4.20
2022	Norfolk	The Ridler	50-1	\$90.70
	Hampton Court	Claymore	7-1	\$14.80
	Commonwealth Cup	Perfect Power	7-2*	\$6.80
2023	King Edward VII	King of Steel	11-10*	\$3.50
2024	Commonwealth Cup	Inisherin	9-4*	\$6.00
	Coronation	Porta Fortuna	7-2	\$8.80

\*Favorite



The first thing to note is I've made selections for 113 races on Thursdays and Fridays since 2011. There was an additional Group race in 2017, so I selected nine races that year. All have been Group events, with one exception; in the pandemic year of 2020, Day 3 of Royal Ascot had just two Group races scheduled, so I also ventured an opinion (a mistake, as it turned out, and one not to be repeated) on the Chesham, a listed event for two-year-olds. There was still a grand total of eight races selected that year.

From those 113 races, I have selected the winner in 32 (28.3%).

Given my desire to stand against favorites whenever possible, I'm somewhat miffed that 16 of my 32 winning selections were the betting favorite, based on U.K. odds (access to U.S. payoffs before 2019 are limited, thus I'm obliged to use U.K. odds for stats below). On the plus side, only five of the 16 were at even-money or less, while four were at 3-1 or higher.

Based solely on U.K. odds and the minimum the horses would have paid if the price were the same in a U.S. pari-mutuel pool, my ROI on the 113 races would be approximately \$3.98 for every \$2 wagered to win.

My selections on Thursdays and Fridays have shown a flat-bet profit in 10 of the 14 years. My worst year was clearly 2017, when the odds-on Caravaggio (Commonwealth Cup) was my only winner among nine races.

While welcome, my success in the two-year-old features astounds me. I've tabbed four of the past six winners of the Norfolk, including two long-priced ones. It's been a perfect race to hold a contrarian view, as no post-time favorite has won it since 2008.

In the early years, the Albany for two-year-old fillies was my best race, though it must be noted that three of my five winning selections also happened to be post-time favorites.

The Gold Cup, the meet centerpiece over 2 1/2 miles, is not a race you should expect to make a killing on. All four of my winners were sent off at even-money or less, while favorites have won nine of the last 14 runnings.

I generally find the Commonwealth Cup, the six-furlong sprint for three-year-old colts and fillies, truly baffling when I first sit down to handicap it every year. Despite that, it's been a consistently good race for me. I've selected six of the 10 winners since its inauguration in 2015, and it would have been six had Dragon Symbol not been disqualified from the win in 2021.

From a purely personal standpoint, I'm highly disappointed in my record in some of my favorite races of the week. That includes the two 1 1/2-mile features for three-year-olds: the Ribblesdale for fillies (3-for-13) and the King Edward VII for colts and geldings (3-for-13). I'm especially miffed about my record in the Coronation (2-for-13), arguably the deepest and most competitive race for three-year-old filly milers in Europe all season. I'd much prefer it be a race I have a great feel for, but it simply hasn't worked out that way.

As always, I look forward to sifting through the Thursday and Friday cards of Royal Ascot week. Obviously, past performance does not guarantee future results, but I'll be working hard to ensure that it does.



# ROYAL ASCOT 2025: FIVE LONGSHOTS TO KNOW

by Kellie Reilly

At this writing, most of the fields for Royal Ascot have yet to be finalized, and the market could adjust in the ensuing days. Here are five contenders, trading at double digits as we begin the week, who are worth knowing in their respective Group races.

## TUESDAY – LAKE FOREST IN QUEEN ANNE (G1)

The opening race of the meet offers a much-anticipated rematch of the leading players from the Lockinge (G1), historically the key guide to this straight mile contest. Thanks to the prevailing narrative, another logical contender, Lake Forest, is getting overlooked at around 12-1. The William Haggas trainee has yet to race at this trip, but judging by his flying late rally to win Australia's lucrative Golden Eagle going about 7 1/2 furlongs, he should handle it. Lake Forest has Ascot form as a fine second in last summer's Commonwealth Cup (G1), and his comeback fourth in France was sneakily good.

## WEDNESDAY – SOPRANO IN DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE (G2)

Overshadowed by such Grade/Group 1 celebrities as Cinderella's Dream, Fallen Angel, and Elmalka, Soprano has each-way appeal at 10-1. The Starspangledbanner filly has run well in her prior starts here, including a handicap score on the straight course at last year's Royal meeting, and she's improved in the interim. After high-level placings at the Irish Champions Festival and at Keeneland, she found the Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf (G1) a bridge too far. Trainer George Boughey has been aiming for this one-mile target all along, and Soprano tuned up with a front-running win at Kempton.

## THURSDAY – TORNADO ALERT IN HAMPTON COURT (G3)

Tornado Alert has run respectably in two classics, finishing fourth in the 2000 Guineas (G1) over Newmarket's Rowley Mile and sixth in the Derby (G1) at Epsom. Might the Godolphin homebred find the 1 1/4 miles of the Hampton Court (G3) just right? Trainer Saeed bin Suroor won this race with Benbatl (2017), who was similarly reverting in trip following a fifth at Epsom. If Tornado Alert does run here, he'll have to raise his game against early favorite Detain, the close third in the Prix du Jockey Club (French Derby) (G1). But that is reflected in his price, as high as 12-1 in the antepost market.

## FRIDAY – IDES OF MARCH IN COMMONWEALTH CUP (G1)

An Aidan O'Brien runner who fits these conditions to a tee, Ides of March is a bit lost in the shuffle at around 10-1. But the Wootton Bassett colt might be the best of the principals going a stiff six furlongs on rattling quick ground. I wouldn't hold his unplaced effort in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint (G1) against him, since a turning five furlongs at Del Mar was too short. Back over six-furlong straightaways for his preps this term, he placed a better-than-appears second at Navan to stablemate Whistlejacket (who arguably benefited from the soft going) and at Newbury to Symbol of Honour (who would have been one of the favorites here if he weren't ineligible as a gelding). Ides of March has given the impression that he would develop into a powerful sprinter, and this could be his time to shine.



## SATURDAY – FLORA OF BERMUDA IN QUEEN ELIZABETH II JUBILEE (G1)

Emerging powerhouse Wathnan Racing already had a strong hand in Saturday's marquee sprint, with early favorite Lazzat and proven course-and-distance operator Kind of Blue. So it might be significant that they've decided to add yet another recruit, Flora of Bermuda, to their line-up, especially because she had another option. The Dark Angel filly also would have fit the five-furlong dash, the King Charles III (G1), where she was initially penciled in as my Tuesday longshot. From the in-form yard of Andrew Balding, she just missed by a neck in the 1895 Duke of York (G2) to Inisherin, the second-favorite here. Flora of Bermuda was progressive last season as a three-year-old facing elders, and she promises even more this term.



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