



ROYAL
ASCOT

ROYAL ASCOT BETTING GUIDE

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ROYAL ASCOT RACE SCHEDULE

TUESDAY - JUNE 15, 2021

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 Queen Anne Stakes (Group 1)	4+	£400000	One mile
3:05pm	2:05pm	10:05am	9:05am	8:05am	7:05am	The Coventry Stakes (Group 2)	2	£100000	Six furlongs
3:40pm	2:40pm	10:40am	9:40am	8:40am	7:40am	The King's Stand Stakes (Group 1)	3+	£350000	Five furlongs
4:20pm	3:20pm	11:20am	10:20am	9:20am	8:20am	The St James's Palace Stakes (Group 1)	3 colts	£350000	Old mile
5:00pm	4:00pm	12:00pm	11:00am	10:00am	9:00am	The Ascot Stakes (Handicap)	4+	£65000	Two miles, four furlongs
5:35pm	4:35pm	12:35pm	11:35am	10:35am	9:35am	The Wolferton Stakes (Listed)	4+	£75000	One mile, two furlongs
6:10pm	5:10pm	1:10pm	12:10pm	11:10am	10:10am	The Copper Horse Stakes (Handicap)	4+	£65000	One mile, six furlongs

WEDNESDAY - JUNE 16, 2021

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 Queen Mary Stakes (Group 2)	2 fillies	£80000	Five furlongs
3:05pm	2:05pm	10:05am	9:05am	8:05am	7:05am	The Queen's Vase (Group 2)	3	£200000	One mile, six furlongs
3:40pm	2:40pm	10:40am	9:40am	8:40am	7:40am	The Duke of Cambridge Stakes (Group 2)	4+ F/M	£140000	One Mile
4:20pm	3:20pm	11:20am	10:20am	9:20am	8:20am	The Prince of Wales's Stakes (Group 1)	4+	£700000	One mile, two furlongs
5:00pm	4:00pm	12:00pm	11:00am	10:00am	9:00am	The Royal Hunt Cup (Heritage Handicap)	3+	£120000	One mile
5:35pm	4:35pm	12:35pm	11:35am	10:35am	9:35am	The Windsor Castle Stakes (Listed)	2	£65000	Five furlongs
6:10pm	5:10pm	1:10pm	12:10pm	11:10am	10:10am	The Kensington Palace S (Handicap) (Class 2)	4+ F/M	£65000	Old mile



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THURSDAY - JUNE 17, 2021

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	£80000	Five furlongs
3:05pm	2:05pm	10:05am	9:05am	8:05am	7:05am	The Hampton Court Stakes (Group 3)	3	£75000	One mile, two furlongs
3:40pm	2:40pm	10:40am	9:40am	8:40am	7:40am	The Ribblesdale Stakes (Group 2)	3 fillies	£160000	One mile, four furlongs
4:15pm	3:15pm	11:15am	10:15am	9:15am	8:15am	The Gold Cup (Group 1)	4+	£350000	Two miles, four furlongs
5:00pm	4:00pm	12:00pm	11:00am	10:00am	9:00am	The Britannia Stakes (Heritage Handicap)	3 C/G	£75000	One mile
5:35pm	4:35pm	12:35pm	11:35am	10:35am	9:35am	The King George V Stakes (Handicap)	3	£65000	One mile, four furlongs
6:10pm	5:10pm	1:10pm	12:10pm	11:10am	10:10am	The Buckingham Palace Stakes (Handicap)	3+	£65000	Seven furlongs

FRIDAY - JUNE 18, 2021

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	£65000	Six furlongs
3:05pm	2:05pm	10:05am	9:05am	8:05am	7:05am	The King Edward VII Stakes (Group 2)	3 C/G	£160000	One mile, four furlongs
3:40pm	2:40pm	10:40am	9:40am	8:40am	7:40am	The Commonwealth Cup (Group 1)	3 C/F	£350000	Six furlongs
4:20pm	3:20pm	11:20am	10:20am	9:20am	8:20am	The Coronation Stakes (Group 1)	3 fillies	£350000	Old mile
5:00pm	4:00pm	12:00pm	11:00am	10:00am	9:00am	The Sandringham Stakes (Handicap)	3 fillies	£75000	One mile
5:35pm	4:35pm	12:35pm	11:35am	10:35am	9:35am	The Duke of Edinburgh Stakes (Handicap)	3+	£65000	One mile, four furlongs
6:10pm	5:10pm	1:10pm	12:10pm	11:10am	10:10am	The Palace of Holyroodhouse Stakes (Handicap)	3	£65000	Five furlongs

SATURDAY - JUNE 19, 2021

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	£65000	Seven furlongs
3:05pm	2:05pm	10:05am	9:05am	8:05am	7:05am	The Jersey Stakes (Group 3)	3	£75000	Seven furlongs
3:40pm	2:40pm	10:40am	9:40am	8:40am	7:40am	The Hardwicke Stakes (Group 2)	4+	£160000	One mile, four furlongs
4:20pm	3:20pm	11:20am	10:20am	9:20am	8:20am	The Diamond Jubilee Stakes (Group 1)	4+	£700000	Six furlongs
5:00pm	4:00pm	12:00pm	11:00am	10:00am	9:00am	The Wokingham Stakes (Heritage Handicap)	3+	£120000	Six furlongs
5:35pm	4:35pm	12:35pm	11:35am	10:35am	9:35am	The Golden Gates Stakes (Handicap)	3	£65000	One mile, two furlongs
6:10pm	5:10pm	1:10pm	12:10pm	11:10am	10:10am	The Queen Alexandra Stakes (Conditions)	4+	£65000	Two miles, six furlongs

2021 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 are required for gentlemen in the famed Royal Enclosure.

WHEN IS ROYAL ASCOT AND HOW MANY PEOPLE ATTEND?

Royal Ascot runs from Tuesday, June 15 through Saturday, June 19. Upwards of 300,000 racegoers attend across the five days in normal times, but pandemic restrictions will limit daily attendance to just 12,000 this year.

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 with total prize money of £6 million, or about \$8.5 million based on current exchange rates. That's an average of more than \$240,000 per race.

WHAT IS THE ROYAL PROCESSION?

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, a lifelong devotee of Thoroughbred racing, has rarely missed a day at Royal Ascot in non-pandemic times. Approximately 30-40 minutes before the first race each day, she and her 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 Queen disembarks from her carriage in the saddling ring.

Horses owned by The Queen have won approximately two dozen races at Royal Ascot since 1953.

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 11 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'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 among the top two richest races held at Royal Ascot with a purse of £700,000. 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?

The largest crowd 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 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 £700,000 Diamond Jubilee (G1), a six-furlong sprint, while 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) on Tuesday, the Prince of Wales's (Turf) on Wednesday, the Norfolk (Juvenile Turf Sprint) on Thursday, and the Diamond Jubilee (Turf Sprint) on Saturday are all Breeders' Cup "Win & You're In" Challenge preps.

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

In addition to the daily coverage available on the NBC Sports Network (NBCSN) and NBC's flagship 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, 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 blog throughout Royal Ascot week for opinions and analysis.

WARD'S SQUAD LEADS TEAM USA AT ROYAL ASCOT

by Kellie Reilly

Trainer Wesley Ward returns to Royal Ascot with another robust team, led by Group 1 heroine Campanelle. As Ward seeks to pad his total of 11 wins at the prestigious meeting, two other American-based horsemen are trying for their first. Irish expat Brendan Walsh sends out Extravagant Kid, who proved himself on the international stage in the Al Quoz Sprint (G1), and Rusty Arnold has a juvenile filly on the scene.

Here's how the American challenge shapes up, in race order.

KAUFYMAKER - TUESDAY'S COVENTRY S. (G2)

Ward has yet to win the Coventry S. (G2), but he's rarely tried the marquee six-furlong event for juveniles. His three attempts so far have all ended up well beaten, and Kaufymaker must overcome an even more daunting historical stat: no filly has beaten the boys in this race for more than a century, since the First World War.

But Ward has been persuaded by Kaufymaker herself to aim high. And it's not because she rolled as the even-money favorite in her Keeneland debut, a 4 1/2-furlong maiden on dirt.

The Greg Kaufman homebred became a surprise package for Ward once he worked her on turf. By Jimmy Creed, sire of Casa Creed who just punched his Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (G1) ticket in the Jaipur (G1), Kaufymaker blossomed on the surface switch.

In the Keeneland barn notes, Ward indicated that Kaufymaker entered the Royal Ascot picture after she outworked Golden Bell on the turf course May 21. Her half-mile in :47.80, around the "dogs," tied with older stablemates Maven and Kimari for the bullet on the day. Kaufymaker's initial possibilities were the fillies' races, until she arrived in Newmarket. Her breeze on the Limekilns signaled that a bigger target was worth pursuing.

"She's the 'now horse' who's thriving," Ward said on Nick Luck's podcast, with irrepressible enthusiasm. "I don't know if I have another horse in my stable that could beat her going six furlongs."

Ward explained that unlike his typical two-year-olds, who blast from the gate but might not last down the straight, Kaufymaker is capable of settling and deploying a long stride.

In the At the Races stable tour, Ward summed up: "The way she moved on the grass, I think she's going to be one of my best chances."

The biggest caveat is that Kaufymaker didn't beat much in her April 15 unveiling in :52.69. Ward's excitement about her, rather than the bare form, is her main claim.



EXTRAVAGANT KID – TUESDAY’S KING’S STAND S. (G1)

The Walsh-trained Extravagant Kid was last seen making history in the Al Quoz, where he became the first U.S. shipper to win a turf race on Dubai World Cup night. It was an especially satisfying result for the eight-year-old veteran who had endured a lengthy bout of seconditis. His sequence of runner-up efforts was interrupted only by a wide-trip fourth in the Breeders’ Cup Turf Sprint.

Walsh’s judgment was spot-on that Extravagant Kid would enjoy the straightaway at Meydan, and Ascot gives him a similar opportunity. But it’s not quite the same. While the about six-furlong Al Quoz suited him well at a flat Meydan, the topography here poses a stiffer test. Hence the five-furlong King’s Stand appealed more than sticking to six for Saturday’s Diamond Jubilee (G1). Decisive input came from British ace Ryan Moore, who notably stays aboard.

MAVEN – KING’S STAND

Maven will bid to give Ward his second King’s Stand victory, after the brilliant Lady Aurelia (2017). The first North American winner sired by American Pharoah, Maven was earmarked for Royal Ascot as a juvenile but ended up skipping it due to soft ground. Although he was rerouted successfully to the Prix du Bois (G3) that summer of 2019, Maven disappointed in his ensuing stakes appearances.

Gelding him last fall was apparently the making of him, for the four-year-old looked better than ever in his April 15 reappearance at Keeneland. Cruising on the front end, Maven kept finding to prevail by daylight.

Maven confirmed his well-being in ensuing works at Keeneland, including the aforementioned bullet in :47.80 on May 21 and five furlongs in 1:00.80 on May 28.

“He outworked Kimari,” Ward said in the At the Races stable tour, “and if you outwork Kimari you’re worthy of going. I think he’s going to run a hell of a race.”

Both Maven and Extravagant Kid have a task versus defending champion Battaash. But if Battaash is not quite at his best in his comeback from injury, the King’s Stand is up for grabs.

WEDNESDAY’S QUEEN MARY S. (G2)

Just as Kaufmaker earned an upgrade to the Coventry, so did stablemate Twilight Gleaming in heading to the Queen Mary S. (G2). Ward originally had her penciled in for the Windsor Castle S. later on the card, but swapped objectives after she edged fellow Stonestreet Stables runner Ruthin in their latest move. Speaking on Luck’s podcast, Ward noted that it was just a matter of determining which one was doing a bit better, without there being a great deal between them.

Twilight Gleaming’s upgrade likely has a greater impact considering Ward’s record in the Queen Mary. Four of his 11 wins at the Royal meeting have come in this race, two of them involving Stonestreet – homebred Lady Aurelia (2016) and Tattersalls purchase Campanelle (2020).

Like Campanelle, Twilight Gleaming is an Irish-bred, but she didn’t cost as much. The £75,000 Goffs Orby yearling is from the first crop of National Defense, a French heavyweight juvenile by Invincible Spirit. Twilight Gleaming is out of the Dansili mare Thames Pageant, who was bred by Queen Elizabeth II and descended from her multiple Group 2 winner Phantom Gold.

With a turf-oriented pedigree, it’s no wonder that Twilight Gleaming improved from her dirt debut. The 3-5 favorite ran creditably in that April 8 dash at Keeneland, breaking slowly and making a sustained move to challenge before stalling in second. But Twilight Gleaming was a different animal next time on Belmont’s Widener turf. The odds-on favorite showed loads of speed and drew away under confident handling in :56.49 for five furlongs.

ARTOS – QUEEN MARY

The Arnold-trained Artos comes off a scrappy maiden win over males. No match for Ruthin in their mutual debut (see below) at Keeneland, Artos showed speed on the inside at Churchill Downs before apparently checking out of contention. Then the 3-1 chance regrouped, got a split, and quickened to nip Ward’s 3-5 shot Overbore, who had been under Royal Ascot consideration himself. Overbore instead stayed stateside, reverted to dirt, and won the June 4 Tremont.

Although not as visually impressive as Twilight Gleaming, Artos is an Irish-bred with pedigree power too. She is by the prolific Kodiak (Campanelle’s sire) and out of the multiple Grade 3-placed stakes scorer Shimmering Moment, who is herself a half-sister (by Afleet Alex) to two-time Breeders’ Cup Turf Sprint champ Stormy Liberal and multiple Grade 2 hero Leinster. Bloodstock agent Kerri Radcliffe picked up Artos for 85,000 guineas as a Tattersalls December weanling.





RUTHIN – WEDNESDAY'S WINDSOR CASTLE S.

British-bred Ruthin ran off as much the best in a 5 1/2-furlong turf maiden at Keeneland, yet the debutante was green as the grass. The 3-5 favorite gawked, veered around in the stretch, changed leads, and came across as hard to handle. Hence the relatively easier company of the Windsor Castle, albeit versus males, is better for her than the initial idea of the Queen Mary.

Note that key equipment changes are in store. Ward revealed that Ruthin will don a figure eight bridle and a tongue tie, which could make all the difference in her racing manners. She'll try to give her trainer a third win in the Windsor Castle, but his first with a filly.

A 350,000 guineas yearling at Tattersalls October, Ruthin is from the first crop at Ribchester, who was a Royal Ascot star himself. She is a half-sister to multiple Group 3-winning sprinter Hit the Bid. Their dam, multiple stakes scorer Selinka by Selkirk, hails from the further family of speedsters Khaadem, Log Out Island, and Bold Edge.

GOLDEN BELL – WINDSOR CASTLE OR FRIDAY'S ALBANY S. (G3)

Ward described Golden Bell as "probably my most impressive Keeneland winner" in his "At the Races" stable tour. The 4-5 shot shrugged off a challenge from slight favorite (and next-out winner) Cartel Queen and powered clear in a sharp :51.53 for 4 1/2 furlongs.

The question is whether that promising dirt performance will translate to turf. Ward said that the Macho Uno filly's second turf work was superior to an average first feel for the surface. Pedigree offers encouragement

since her half-brother Doc Boy is a multiple turf stakes winner, and their granddam is champion turf female Perfect Sting. Yet Ward is cross-entering her to the Windsor Castle in addition to her original target of Friday's Albany S. (G3), which he's yet to win.

LUCCI & NAKATOMI – THURSDAY'S NORFOLK S. (G2)

The theme of ever-evolving juveniles continues with Ward's pair for the Norfolk S. (G2), a "Win and You're In" for the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint (G2). Nakatomi, originally set to remain on dirt for the Tremont, touted himself in his turf works. Lucci, whom Ward has always regarded as the type for Royal Ascot, only just got the upper hand against work companion Nakatomi. Each will try to hand Ward a third Norfolk win.

Lucci debuted at Belmont May 9 – the same day and distance as Twilight Gleaming's race – and wired his maiden in :56.92. Although the 1.25-1 favorite was asked more to assert than Twilight Gleaming, and clocked a couple of ticks slower, Ward told At the Races he was more impressed with the colt since he lacked experience.

By Not This Time and out of a Lookin at Lucky mare, Lucci was sold for \$290,000 as a yearling at Fasig-Tipton.

Nakatomi, a son of Firing Line and a Flatter mare, was a bargain buy for \$25,000 at Fasig-Tipton October. The chestnut gelding toppled even-money stablemate Happy Soul in their unveiling at a sloppy Keeneland, where the 5-2 chance chased and then surged past to finish 4 1/2 furlongs in :51.35. Happy Soul has gone on to win her next two by more than 23 lengths combined, including the June 3 Astoria S.

Oisin Murphy picks up the mount on Nakatomi. John Velazquez, who stays aboard Lucci, rides nearly all the other Ward runners.

CAMPANELLE – FRIDAY'S COMMONWEALTH CUP (G1)

Frankie Dettori maintains his partnership with Campanelle, who will try to emulate Lady Aurelia as a two-time winner at Royal Ascot for Ward. While both won the Queen Mary as juveniles, they're different types. Campanelle was more authoritative in the about six-furlong Prix Morny (G1) than in the Queen Mary, and she tried a mile when fourth in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf (G1). Her ability to handle more ground than Lady Aurelia meant that the six-furlong Commonwealth Cup for sophomores was always her objective.

Campanelle has the class, as Europe's joint champion two-year-old filly of 2020. The caveat is that she missed her intended prep at Keeneland with a bruised heel. She's over that now and pleased Dettori in her recent work. Ward has noted she can fire fresh and enters in "fantastic" shape, but admitted in the stable tour that he "probably would have preferred a race" beforehand.

Although Ward is looking for his first win in this race, the Commonwealth Cup was just inaugurated in 2015, and he's gone close. Fourth with Bound for Nowhere in 2017, he was second with Kimari last year.

ROYAL ASCOT GROUP RACE HISTORIES

by Kellie Reilly

TUESDAY

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
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
2013	Declaration of War	5th Lockinge
2012	Frankel	1st Lockinge
2011	Canford Cliffs	1st Lockinge

KING'S STAND (G1), 3YO/UP, FIVE FURLONGS

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
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
2013	Sole Power	4th Temple
2012	Little Bridge	1st Sprint Cup (HK)
2011	Prohibit	2nd Prix du Gros-Chene

COVENTRY (G2), 2YO, SIX FURLONGS

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
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
2013	War Command	1st Leopardstown maiden
2012	Dawn Approach	1st Rochestown
2011	Power	1st Marble Hill

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2020	Palace Pier	1st Newcastle handicap
2019	Circus Maximus	6th 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
2013	Dawn Approach	12th Epsom Derby
2012	Most Improved	14th French Derby
2011	Frankel	1st 2000 Guineas

WEDNESDAY

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
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
2013	Rizeena	1st National
2012	Ceiling Kitty	1st Marygate
2011	Best Terms	1st Newbury conditions

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2020	Santiago	Layoff since September
2019	Dashing Willoughby	3rd Chester Vase
2018	Kew Gardens	9th Derby
2017	Stradivarius	2nd Chester handicap
2016	Sword Fighter	3rd Naas race
2015	Aloft	Layoff since October
2014	Hartnell	2nd Lingfield Derby Trial
2013	Leading Light	1st Gallinule
2012	Estimate (f)	1st Salisbury maiden
2011	Namibian	3rd Edinburgh Cup (h'cap)

continued from previous page

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
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
2013	Duntle	1st Amethyst
2012	Joviality	2nd Princess Elizabeth
2011	Lolly for Dolly	2nd Equestrian (=Lanwades)

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
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'Ispahan
2015	Free Eagle	Layoff since October
2014	The Fugue (f)	11th Dubai Duty Free (UAE)
2013	Al Kazeem	1st Tattersalls Gold Cup
2012	So You Think	1st Tattersalls Gold Cup
2011	Rewilding	1st Dubai Sheema Classic (UAE)

THURSDAY

NORFOLK (G2), 2YO, FIVE FURLONGS

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
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
2013	No Nay Never	1st Keeneland maiden (US)
2012	Reckless Abandon	1st Doncaster maiden
2011	Bapak Chinta	1st Hamilton maiden

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2020	Frankly Darling	1st Newcastle maiden
2019	Star Catcher	3rd Bouquetot 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
2013	Riposte	1st Newmarket maiden
2012	Princess Highway	1st Blue Wind
2011	Banimpire	1st Noblesse

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2020	Russian Emperor	2nd Derrinstown Stud
2019	Sangarius	3rd Heron
2018	Hunting Horn	6th French Derby
2017	Benbatl	5th Derby
2016	Hawkbill	1st Newmarket S.
2015	Time Test	1st London Gold Cup (h'cap)
2014	Cannock Chase	1st London Gold Cup (h'cap)
2013	Remote	1st Doncaster handicap
2012	Energizer	4th German 2000 Guineas
2011	Pisco Sour	9th Derby

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
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
2013	Estimate (f)	1st Sagaro
2012	Colour Vision	1st Sagaro
2011	Fame and Glory	1st Saval Beg

continued from previous page

FRIDAY

ALBANY (G3), 2YO FILLIES, SIX FURLONGS

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
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
2014	Cursory Glance	1st Kempton maiden
2013	Kiyoshi	1st Goodwood maiden
2012	Newfangled	1st Newmarket maiden
2011	Samitar	3rd Newmarket maiden

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
2020	Pyledriver	2nd Classic Trial
2019	Japan	3rd Derby
2018	Old Persian	1st Fairway
2017	Permian	10th Derby
2016	Across the Stars	10th Derby
2015	Balios	2nd Newmarket S.
2014	Eagle Top	4th Leicester handicap
2013	Hillstar	2nd London Gold Cup (h'cap)
2012	Thomas Chippendale	1st Newmarket handicap
2011	Nathaniel	2nd Chester Vase

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
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
2014	Rizeena	7th 1000 Guineas
2013	Sky Lantern	1st 1000 Guineas
2012	Fallen for You	6th Chartwell Fillies'
2011	Immortal Verse	1st Prix de Sandringham

COMMONWEALTH CUP (G1), 3YO, SIX FURLONGS

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
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
2015	Muhaarar	8th French 2000 Guineas

SATURDAY

JERSEY (G3), 3YO, SEVEN FURLONGS

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
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
2014	Mustajeeb	3rd Irish 2000 Guineas
2013	Gale Force Ten	2nd Irish 2000 Guineas
2012	Ishvana (f)	2nd Irish 1000 Guineas
2011	Strong Suit	6th Greenham

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

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
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
2014	Telescope	2nd Huxley
2013	Thomas Chippendale	2nd Buckhounds
2012	Sea Moon	1st Tapster
2011	Await the Dawn	1st Huxley

DIAMOND JUBILEE (G1), 4YO/UP, SIX FURLONGS

YEAR	WINNER	PRIOR RACE
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)
2014	Slade Power	1st Greenlands
2013	Lethal Force	2nd Duke of York
2012	Black Caviar (f)	1st Goodwood (Aus)
2011	Society Rock	2nd Haydock conditions

2021 QUEEN ANNE STAKES TIPSHEET

by J. Keeler Johnson

The five-day Royal Ascot meet kicks off on Tuesday with the prestigious Queen Anne S. (G1). Held over one mile on the straight course, the Queen Anne has drawn an elite field of 11, all vying for a “Win and You’re In” berth to the Breeders’ Cup Mile (G1) at Del Mar.

QUEEN ANNE PICKS:

- #6 Palace Pier
- #5 Order of Australia
- #4 Lord Glitters
- #9 Regal Reality
- #3 Lope Y Fernandez
- #11 Top Rank
- #10 Sir Busker

QUEEN ANNE WAGERS:

- \$5 Exacta: 6 with 5 (\$5)
- \$2 Trifecta: 6 with 5 with 3,4,9,10,11 (\$10)
- \$2 Trifecta: 6 with 3,4,9,10,11 with 5 (\$10)
- Total: \$25

QUEEN ANNE CONTENDERS:

#1 Accidental Agent sprung a 33-1 upset in the 2018 Queen Anne, but he’s gone winless in 16 starts since then. He’s eligible to improve in his second start back from surgery to correct a breathing issue, but his 2021 debut—a fourth in a one-mile handicap at Newbury—leaves Accidental Agent with form to find against this caliber of competition.

#2 Bless Him enters off a runner-up effort in the Sandown Mile (G2) last month, though he was beaten eight lengths by Palace Pier. A victory at the stakes level has proven elusive for Bless Him, who will need improvement to crack the superfecta at Royal Ascot.

#3 Lope Y Fernandez never fired over good-to-soft ground in the Lockinge S. (G1) at Newbury last month, finishing eighth behind Palace Pier. But the Aidan O’Brien trainee had previously won Leopardstown’s Heritage S. over good ground by a convincing 5 1/2 lengths, his first run since finishing a close third in the 2020 Breeders’ Cup Mile. A top-four finish is within reach.

#4 Lord Glitters might be eight years old, but he remains in good form. Winner of the 2019 Queen Anne and runner-up

in 2018, Lord Glitters recently snatched a top-level victory when nabbing the 1 1/8-mile Jebel Hatta (G1) in Dubai during the winter. He kicked off his European season with a fourth in Lockinge and may take a step forward while returning to Ascot.

#5 Order of Australia tried his hand as a classics type last season, but thrived when cutting back in distance for the Breeders’ Cup Mile, where he defeated 2020 Queen Anne winner Circus Maximus by a neck at 73-1. Subsequently sixth in Hong Kong Mile (G1), Order of Australia hasn’t run since December, but he’s been specifically pointed toward the Queen Anne and should run a fine race off the layoff. Keep in mind, trainer Aidan O’Brien has won the Queen Anne four times.

#6 Palace Pier is hands-down the horse to beat in the Queen Anne. Winner of the St. James’s Palace S. (G1) at Royal Ascot last summer, Palace Pier has claimed victory in seven of his eight starts. He’s 2-for-2 in 2021 alone, dominating the Sandown Mile by eight lengths before rallying to win the Lockinge by a confident 1 1/2 lengths. Frankie Dettori, Royal Ascot’s most successful active jockey, retains the mount, stamping Palace Pier as one of the shortest-priced favorites of the meet. He’ll be tough to beat.

#7 Pogo placed at the Group 1 level when third in the Prix d’Ispehan (G2) in France last summer, but he misfired against Palace Pier in the Lockinge last month, fading to finish 10th out of 11. He’ll need a form turnaround to crack the top four at Royal Ascot.

#8 Prince Eiji scored his lone victory at Ascot back in 2018, but the son of Dubawi has gone 0-for-11 since then. He nearly turned things around in the Queen Anne Stakes Trial over this course and distance in April, finishing second by a head, but the competition is much deeper in the Queen Anne itself.

#9 Regal Reality was once a capable Group 1-placed performer over middle distances, but he’s achieved even better results since cutting back to one mile last summer, winning the Sovereign S. (G3) and placing in the Celebration Mile (G2) and Joel S. (G2). The latter race saw Regal Reality split the Group 1 winners Kameko and Benbatl while beaten just half a length. Regal Reality hasn’t run since September, but a top-four finisher isn’t out of the question for Royal Ascot’s all-time leading trainer Sir Michael Stoute.

#10 Sir Busker finished right behind Prince Eiji when third in the Queen Anne Stakes Trial, beaten 1 1/4 lengths for all the money. Winner of the Silver Royal Hunt Cup handicap racing one mile at Royal Ascot last summer, Sir Busker reiterated his affinity for the Queen Anne conditions when finishing fourth in the Queen Elizabeth II S. (G1) to wrap up 2020. But the son of Sir Prancealot will need improvement to get his picture taken on Tuesday.

#11 Top Rank couldn’t keep pace with Palace Pier in the Lockinge, finishing seven lengths behind in third place. But he’d previously won the Doncaster Mile in fine fashion, and he also claimed top honors in the 2020 Superior Mile (G3) at Haydock, so Top Rank—while not the top-ranked contender—fits well enough to warrant inclusion in trifecta tickets.



HANDICAPPING THE 2021 QUEEN ANNE STAKES AT ROYAL ASCOT

by Kellie Reilly

A tribute to the monarch who inaugurated racing at Ascot more than three centuries ago, the Queen Anne S. (G1) kicks off the Royal meeting at 9:30 a.m. (ET) on Tuesday. A son of Kingman is heavily favored to wear the crown in this "Win and You're In" for the Breeders' Cup Mile (G1).

TOP SELECTION: #6 PALACE PIER (2-5)

You can brainstorm possible reasons for Palace Pier to get overturned – the quickest ground he's faced since his career debut, his lone career loss here last fall (losing a shoe in the bog), and two big wins already this spring. But those speculations run smack dab into the reality that the Gosden trainee is the best horse in the race, by some way, on the ratings. Palace Pier would have to regress substantially, and his rivals improve, to produce an upset.

His recent victory in the Lockinge S. (G1) at Newbury, the key stepping stone to the Queen Anne, showcased his star power. Confidently handled by Frankie Dettori, Palace Pier put the field away with a sudden burst.

Although the pace scenario figures to be more sedate on Tuesday, a slow tempo was no hindrance to Palace Pier at Royal Ascot last summer. On the contrary, it put a premium on his finishing speed, and he sprinted late to win the St James's Palace S. (G1) on the round course. No wonder Dettori believes that Palace Pier will end up being one of the best he's ever ridden.

SECOND CHOICE: #3 LOPE Y FERNANDEZ (10-1)

With a better trip in the Breeders' Cup Mile at Keeneland, Lope Y Fernandez arguably would have won, rather than his 72-1 stablemate Order of Australia. That's par for the course for the Aidan O'Brien trainee, who has been thereabouts in major races throughout his career, ever since his second here to record-setting Pinatubo in the 2019 Chesham S.

After dabbling with sprinting last season, Lope Y Fernandez is now being given his chance in the mile division. He relished a class drop to the listed ranks in the Heritage S. at Leopardstown, but flopped behind Palace Pier in the Lockinge. Ignore that effort because of the unsuitably soft ground, traffic, and a passive ride that saw him wrapped up on.

O'Brien's won this race before with horses unplaced in the Lockinge, Haradasun (2007) and Declaration of War (2013) (also the Heritage winner two back). My hypothesis is that Lope Y Fernandez is the Ballydoyle horse to prefer, notwithstanding the shuffling of jockeys that puts Ryan Moore on Order of Australia. Seamie Heffernan is a tactical ace, and Lope Y Fernandez has run very well both times he's been aboard.

THIRD: #9 REGAL REALITY (20-1)

Once a rising force for Sir Michael Stoute, Regal Reality lost the plot after his third to Enable and Magical in the 2019 Eclipse S. (G1). But gelding, adding a visor, and reverting to a mile proved the formula to get him back on track with a convincing score in the 2020 Sovereign S. (G3). Regal Reality came within a half-length of Kameko when last seen in the Sept. 25 Joel S. (G2), where he outfinished Benbatl and left Top Rank behind.

Set to reappear in the Dubai Turf (G1) on World Cup night, Regal Reality unfortunately had to scratch due to a fever. We'd have a better read on him, and likely a shorter price, in this spot had he run at Meydan. The six-year-old is entitled to summon his back class, and add to his resume, in the hands of a master.

FOURTH: #5 ORDER OF AUSTRALIA (5-1)

If his Breeders' Cup Mile stunner boils down to a tale of trips, Order of Australia took full advantage of his opportunity. Moreover, the half-brother to Iridessa (and the much-touted Santa Barbara) was apparently wasting his time competing over longer distances. Had the Ballydoyle runner had more chances at a mile previously, his resume might look better.

The Queen Anne can put him in a favorable light again, unfolding in a way to leverage his tactical speed. Order of Australia led for some way in last summer's French Derby (G1) before succumbing. It wouldn't be a surprise if Moore works out a forward trip much like his hard-fought decision in this race a year ago aboard Circus Maximus.

LONGSHOT: #4 LORD GLITTERS (20-1)

The upset winner of the 2019 Queen Anne, and a close second in 2018, Lord Glitters had a productive Dubai Carnival this winter. The David O'Meara veteran won two Group races, notably the Jebel Hatta (G1) on Super Saturday, but bled when sixth to Lord North in the Dubai Turf. Lord Glitters returned in the Lockinge, where he closed belatedly for fourth in a solid prep.

Two years ago, he'd run far worse in the Lockinge after a third to Japan's great Almond Eye in the Dubai Turf, but moved forward dramatically in the Queen Anne. Similar improvement from Newbury would put him into the frame here, although he'd be better suited by some pace help. His affinity for Ascot makes it difficult to leave him out of the equation.



BET ANYWHERE



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HANDICAPPING THE 2021 ST JAMES'S PALACE STAKES AT ROYAL ASCOT

by Kellie Reilly

The St James's Palace S. (G1), Royal Ascot's fourth race at 11:20 a.m. (ET) Tuesday, is the marquee event for three-year-old milers. Held over the round course, the mile prize once again shapes up as a referendum on the 2000 Guineas (G1) winner.

A few of the Guineas also-rans are clearly better than they showed at Newmarket, so I'm expecting a reversal of form here. The greater difficulty is figuring out which rebound candidates to emphasize. If disappointing Guineas favorite Battleground makes a lot of sense, you can make a strong case for others at a price.

TOP SELECTION: #3 CHINDIT (8-1)

Chindit's only losses have come at Newmarket, where he was well below his best in last fall's Dewhurst S. (G1) on soft and a staying-on fifth in the Guineas. Otherwise, the Richard Hannon pupil is perfect, including a stylish victory in the 2020 Pat Eddery S. at Ascot. As the At the Races tweet below indicates, Chindit beat some useful juveniles that day.

The Wootton Bassett colt reiterated his quality in the Sept. 12 Champagne S. (G2) at Doncaster. The margin wasn't flashy, but the time for seven furlongs (1:24.21) was faster than the Park S. (G2) for elders (1:25.12). Turning the page on his forgettable Dewhurst, Chindit returned a winner in the Apr. 18 Greenham S. (G3) at Newbury, where he got up in time.

Aside from the plus of getting away from Newmarket, Chindit is making an equipment change. Hannon has said that the noseband is coming off, and plans call for him to secure better early position.

SECOND CHOICE: #12 THUNDER MOON (12-1)

If Thunder Moon runs back to his stellar performance in last fall's Vincent O'Brien National S. (G1) at the Curragh, everyone else is in trouble. The Joseph O'Brien trainee had the gears of a racecar as he changed lanes in traffic and zoomed clear of Wembley; St Mark's Basilica, now a dual French classic winner; future Guineas near-misser Master of the Seas, and the super-consistent Lucky Vega.

Thunder Moon accordingly was favored to follow up in the Dewhurst, but wound up third to St Mark's Basilica and Wembley on ground that didn't suit. Not seen again until the Guineas, Thunder Moon was studdish in the paddock, uninterested in racing, and trailed home last.

The son of Zoffany, who ran Frankel close in this race 10 years ago, has questions to answer now. But I can't forget how he manhandled a top field in the quick conditions he'll find here.

THIRD: #11 POETIC FLARE (4-1)

A short head away from being a dual Guineas winner, Poetic Flare is yet another standout for breeder/trainer Jim Bolger. By Dawn Approach, Bolger's Guineas and St James's Palace hero in 2013, Poetic Flare was all heart in springing a 16-1 upset at Newmarket. He was sixth in the French equivalent, then wheeled back and just missed to stablemate Mac Swiney in the Irish 2000 Guineas (G1) on soft to heavy going.

Poetic Flare has every right to be involved in the finish again, between his tactical style and grit. Yet he's not exactly the kind of dominant figure you'd associate with turning the Guineas/St James's Palace double, and that makes him an arguably vulnerable favorite.

Beyond the question of confirming form with his old rivals who are eligible to bounce back, there's the matter of a few class-climbers with real potential.

FOURTH: #7 MAXIMAL (20-1)

Frankel's relative Maximal is fascinating on the cutback for Sir Michael Stoute, especially since he was well backed for Thursday's Hampton Court S. (G3) at 1 1/4 miles. The Juddmonte homebred was a smashing winner over a mile at Sandown last fall, and he has finished second to such classy Godolphin runners as One Ruler (at seven furlongs) and Hurricane Lane (at 1 1/4 miles). Maximal gave Hurricane Lane, the future Dante (G2) winner and Epsom Derby (G1) third, all he could handle before being outstayed late. His most recent second in the Dee S. again represents solid form over further.

Pedigree hints that Maximal will find another level going shorter. While he's by Galileo, dam Joyeuse (a half to Frankel) was a multiple stakes winner at six furlongs and Group 3-placed at seven.

I'm compelled to mention that #4 Highland Avenue (5-1) was my original fourth pick. Then Maximal was confirmed, Highland Avenue got stuck in post 12, and I overthought it. Although his unbeaten conqueror Mostahdaf is attracting a lot of market support, there's no compelling reason why Highland Avenue can't gain revenge.

In the Heron S. last out, Mostahdaf ground his way a half-length past in a slog on soft, while receiving three pounds. This rematch levels the playing field not only at the weights, but on a better surface. Highland Avenue had won three straight for Charlie Appleby, highlighted by the Feilden S. in good time. He could prefer that nine-furlong trip, but the son of Dubawi and the brilliant Lumiere is not lacking around a mile.

EXOTICS PLAYER: #6 LUCKY VEGA (7-1)

It's unfair to relegate Lucky Vega to a footnote because he's likely to garner a placing. Indeed, he has made the trifecta in five of seven starts, with legitimate excuses in the other two. Since taking last summer's Phoenix S. (G1), the Jessica Harrington colt has placed in the Middle Park and Guineas at Newmarket, and he was a brave fourth in the Irish version. The return to quicker ground will help him. Lucky Vega would have more win appeal if he'd won beyond six furlongs, or drew better than post 11, so I see him more as the quintessential exotics player.

ROYAL ASCOT TRENDS

by Josh Powell

The most important trends you need to know before placing a bet on Royal Ascot.

Trends can be important in racing – and we're not talking about Royal Ascot's rules on top hats and tails. Winning trends from years gone by help frame who is likely to contend this year based on all the attributes of previous champs, helping us sort the red-hot contenders from the plucky no-hopers.

Here are the key trends from the last 12 years for all five feature races at this year's Royal Ascot.

DAY 1 – ST JAMES'S PALACE STAKES

This is a good race for the favourites, with 10 of the last 12 winners coming from the top three in the betting. The only exceptions being Circus Maximus in 2019 and Most Improved in 2012. Most Improved's win that year for trainer Brian Meehan is an anomaly for a lot of the trends. Eleven of the last 12 winners had all won over one mile, 11 of 12 had at least two wins on the flat, and 11 of 12 had already won that season. Most Improved is the exception to the rule on all three occasions.

Eleven of the last 12 winners were rated 109 or higher on Official Ratings (Mastercraftsman didn't have a rating when he won in 2009) and half of the last 12 winners were trained by either Aidan O'Brien or John Gosden.

TREND PICK: MOSTAHDAF

DAY 2 – PRINCE OF WALES'S STAKES

Although only three favourites from the last 12 years have won this race, 11 of 12 were from the top three in the betting so keep your eye on the top of the market. Ten of 12 winners had also finished in the money on their last run before this race with My Dream Boat (2016) and The Fugue (2014) the two exceptions.

Eleven of 12 had previously won over 10 furlongs with Rewilding (2011) the one who hadn't as he had never previously raced over the distance. Eleven of 12 also had at least four flat wins on their CV before this race with Free Eagle in 2015 the inexperienced omission on that trend. Ten of 12 had a rating of 109 or higher.

TREND PICK: LORD NORTH

DAY 3 – ASCOT GOLD CUP

Another strong race for the favourite with eight of the last 12 winners heading the betting. Eight of 12 had won on their last run before Ascot and eight of 12 had also won at the track before, so recent form and course form are both key.

Ten of 12 had previously won at least five times on the flat (Estimate in 2013 and Rite of Passage in 2010 didn't) and nine of 12 were rated 117 or higher with Trip to Paris winning off a lowly 107 in 2015. Rite of Passage was also the only winner in the last 12 who hadn't already had a run that season.

Incredibly, Stradivarius for trainer John Gosden is attempting to win this race for the fourth time in a row.

TREND PICK: STRADIVARIUS



DAY 4 – CORONATION STAKES

Going into the Coronation Stakes keep your eyes on any horse who is coming here off running in the 1000 Guineas in either England, Ireland, or France. Six of the last 12 winners of this race had just finished in the money in those races.

Every winner in the last 12 years had at least two wins on the flat previously and 11 of them were rated 108 or higher – Watch Me was rated 104 when she won in 2019. Nine of 12 winners had previously won over the one-mile distance and nine of 12 had already won that season. Ascot experience isn't important here as 11 of 12 winners had not won at the course previously.

TREND PICK: MOTHER EARTH

DAY 5 – DIAMOND JUBILEE STAKES

Wins over the distance are key to have on your CV for the Diamond Jubilee Stakes with 11 of the last 12 winners having at least three previous wins on the flat to their name. The 2009 winner, Art Connoisseur, was the only winner in the last 12 years to not have more than six runs on the flat, while eleven of 12 had at least one win over six furlongs. The only one that didn't was Lethal Force in 2013.

Eight of 12 failed to win on their start before the race, so that isn't too much of a concern, but 10 of 12 were rated 114 or higher and eleven of 12 had at least one win in a Group race.

TREND PICK: DREAM OF DREAMS

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