

ROYAL ASCOT

PUNDITS' PICKS OF THE DAY

DAY 1, TUESDAY JUNE 18TH



MICK FITZGERALD

PADDY POWER

JASON WEAVER

RUBY WALSH

MATT CHAMPMAN

2.30PM

QUEEN ANNE STAKES 1M

- MF** **AUDIENCE** was a surprise winner of the Lockinge Stakes at Newbury and can go in again on this quicker ground.
- PP** **CHARYN** was the only one to get anywhere near Audience in the Lockinge. He's improving and can turn the tables now.
- JW** **CHARYN** has definitely been an improved model this season, it was a super effort when running a clear second last time after the leader got a freebie up on the front end.
- RW** **DOCKLANDS** (each-way) looks a player to me in the opener. The straight track at Ascot suits him and he won last year's Britannia Stakes here.
- MC** Maljoom is interesting each-way for William Haggas but **BIG ROCK** is miles clear on ratings, while some will say he needs plenty of juice in the ground I'm not so sure.

3.45PM

KING CHARLES' III STAKES 5F

- MF** This will be a fast and furious 5f sprint where the Australian speedster **ASFOORA** will be used to the hustle and bustle of this type of contest.
- PP** The three-year-old **BIG EVS** was giving weight away when winning on his York reappearance and can prove too strong for the older brigade.
- JW** **ROGUE LIGHTNING** looked very rusty on his return at Haydock and was caught out a little bit out on the wing so never got into a real racing rhythm. He came home and hit the line strongly and he's going to be a big improver from that run.
- RW** A really competitive race where trainer Adrian Murray seems sweet on **VALIANT FORCE** at a nice price.
- MC** **TWILIGHT CALLS** (each-way) for Ryan Moore and Henry Candy.

5.05PM

ASCOT STAKES 2M 4F

- MF** Joseph O' Brien's **NUSRET** (each-way) was a two-miler over jumps and with this being 2m 3f, it could pay to have a runner with a little bit of pace on your side.
- PP** This extreme stamina test could be just the ticket for **ZANNDABAD** who shaped like the best horse at the weights when an eye-catching third in the Chester Cup and he could be the answer with William Buick aboard.
- JW** **ZANNDABAD** was a massive eye-catcher at Chester recently who didn't see any daylight until the race was over and he flew home.
- RW** I wouldn't put anyone off Willie Mullins' **MY LYKA** whose a hard horse to get a handle on.
- MC** **TRITONIC** should give us an each-way run. Not so long ago he was winning a chase over jumps.

6.15PM

COPPER HORSE STAKES HANDICAP 1M 6F

- MF** Gavin Cromwell's **MY MATE MOZZIE** (each-way) looks a player. He's maybe better known as a National Hunt horse but looks to have solid claims to at least hit the frame.
- PP** **BELLOCCIO** needs to prove his effectiveness on ground faster than good but he has a very appealing mark and won last month at Punchestown. over hurdles.
- JW** As a half-brother to Baaeed, **NAQEEB** is always going to come with a bit of a following and something must've come to light after what was a ridiculously below-par effort when he tailed off last time in the Yorkshire Cup.
- RW** Willie Mullins saddles Belloccio who will have to be well ahead of the handicapper to win this. I'm slightly cautious and prefer Joseph O'Brien's **A PIECE OF HEAVEN** who is progressing at a rate of knots.
- MC** It's not impossible **MY MATE MOZZIE** (each-way) can hit the frame at least for Gavin Cromwell and Gary Carroll.

3.05PM

COVENTRY STAKES 6F

- MF** **ANDESITE** knuckled down well to win on debut at York and the trainer is in red-hot form..
- PP** The expensive Breeze-Up purchase **CATALYSE** made a big impression when winning on debut at Hamilton.
- JW** **CATALYSE** was very dominant on his racecourse debut winning with a good bit in hand, also clocking a tidy 35 seconds for the final three furlongs up the hill at Hamilton.
- RW** **CAMILLE PISSARRO** impressed me at Navan but then just got chinned at the Curragh when fading in the last 75 yards. He can make amends now for Aidan O'Brien.
- MC** I'm happy to stick with Aidan O'Brien and Ryan Moore on **CAMILLE PISSARRO**, who cost a cool 1,250,000gns.

4.25PM

ST JAMES' PALACE STAKES 1M

- MF** I fancy Richard Hannon's Irish 2,000 victor **ROSALLION** to reverse the form with his Newmarket conqueror, Notable Speech.
- PP** **NOTABLE SPEECH** looks to have all the attributes of a top-class miler, with a high cruising speed and a sharp turn of foot.
- JW** **HENRY LONGFELLOW**'s unbeaten run came to an end when he was beaten just over three lengths in France recently. It was a good performance considering he never saw any daylight.
- RW** It's hard to see Henry Longfellow out of the money but the Newmarket 2,000 Guineas winner **NOTABLE SPEECH** looks the best in the race.
- MC** **NOTABLE SPEECH** is the pick, but boy do I fear Henry Longfellow.

5.40PM

WOLFERTON STAKES 1M 2F

- MF** The Gosdens' **TORITO** should handle fast conditions and ran well behind Waipiro here last season.
- PP** **TORITO** looked to finish with something in the tank when a promising third on his return at Newmarket last month and this lightly-raced four-year-old makes plenty of appeal.
- JW** **CHECKANDCHALLENGE** (each-way) already has some very strong form to his name around this venue over a variety of distances.
- RW** I'd only be slightly tempted to have a small each-way wager on **MUJTABA** but this might be one I watch with a Pimm's in my hand.
- MC** I see no reason why we won't get a huge each-way run from the wonderful old boy that is **ASTRO KING**.

PADDYPOWER. NEWS

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