

# ROYAL ASCOT

## PUNDITS' PICKS OF THE DAY

DAY 4, FRIDAY JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup>



MICK FITZGERALD

PADDY POWER

JASON WEAVER

RUBY WALSH

MATT CHAMPMAN

2.30PM

### ALBANY STAKES 6F

- MF** I was at Newmarket when Godolphin's **MOUNTAIN BREEZE** won and I was very impressed. She's a half sister to Pinatubo and might just be good enough to upset the Ballydoyle raider, Fairy Godmother.
- PP** **MOUNTAIN BREEZE** and Fairy Godmother stand out on form and might fight this out, with the first-named marginally preferred given she's still open to significant improvement.
- JW** Ballydoyle have opted to go for this contest with **HEAVENS GATE** and can be rewarded for it.
- RW** I was really taken by **HEAVENS GATE** at the Curragh. She's a strong stayer and Ryan Moore may opt to ride stablemate Fairy Godmother, but that will only help the price for Heavens Gate.
- MC** **MOUNTAIN BREEZE** is unbeaten in two starts for Godolphin and Charlie Appleby and has looked really good in victories at Newmarket.

3.45PM

### CORONATION STAKES 1M 4F

- MF** The French filly **RAMATUELLE** was very unlucky in the 1,000 Guineas and many still can't believe she didn't win it.
- PP** **RAMATUELLE** is taken to reverse the 1,000 Guineas form with Elmalka and Porta Fortuna having been worn down late by that pair at Newmarket.
- JW** **SKELLET** (each-way) will take a big step forward for her Curragh comeback run and there is no reason she should be such a massive price against Opera Singer.
- RW** **OPERA SINGER** was big in the paddock on her debut in the Irish 1,000 Guineas and Aidan O'Brien made no secret of the fact that she would come on for the run.
- MC** The 1,000 Guineas runner-up **PORTA FORTUNA** (each-way) is super tough and has loads of ability having also chased home Hard to Justify in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies' Turf last season.

5.05PM

### SANDRINGHAM STAKES HANDICAP 1M

- MF** I may be letting my heart rule my head here but I really like **FAIR ANGELICA** (each-way) who is highly rated by her trainer Richard Hughes.
- PP** **INDELIBLE** ran out a ready winner on her return at Doncaster and that race has a strong look to it.
- JW** **CAT NINJA** (each-way) bumped into a very tidy colt in Dosman at Kempton and now goes back in against her own sex in what is a very hotly-contested handicap.
- RW** **ZAYNAB** looks to be going the right way. She's beaten more experienced rivals narrowly in his last two wins and there could be more to come, even if she lacks experience in this big-runner field.
- MC** **FLIGHT OF FANCY** (each-way) stays well and might hit the frame for Aidan O'Brien.

6.15PM

### PALACE OF HOLYROOD HOUSE STAKES HANDICAP 5F

- MF** Oisin Murphy has a good book of rides and **JUBILEE WALK** can end the day on a high for him.
- PP** **MUKAAFH** left his disappointing reappearance behind in no uncertain terms at Doncaster last month looks the sort that can climb the ranks quickly.
- JW** Ryan Moore gets the call up on **SOMMELIER** and that's always a positive.
- RW** I'm going for two in this as 28 runners could go to post. Both **GOT TO LOVE A GREY** (25) and **SOMMELIER** (27) are drawn high and make some appeal.
- MC** **JUBILEE WALK** is up 7lb for a win at York but he's progressed well with every run and enjoyed dropping to 5f at a faster track than this when scoring last time.

3.05PM

### COMMONWEALTH CUP 6F

- MF** The Commonwealth Cup over 6f and I'm going to think outside the box with **KIND OF BLUE** (each-way). He's among the lightest raced in the field so is open to any amount of improvement and trainer James Fanshawe wouldn't run him if he thought he wasn't up to it.
- PP** The easy Sandy Lane winner **INISHERIN** preferred to Elite Status, who was equally impressive from the front in a Newbury listed race last time.
- JW** A fair sixth in the 2,000 Guineas over a mile, **INISHERIN** looked comfortable when winning over 6f at Haydock.
- RW** Givemethebeatboys has his chance but a couple of the English runners may be ahead of him, namely **INISHERIN** and Elite Status.
- MC** I'm all over **INISHERIN**. The 2,000 Guineas sixth dropped back in trip for the Sandy Lane at Haydock and was in control throughout the whole event.

4.25PM

### DUKE OF EDINBURGH STAKES 1M

- MF** A 1m 4f handicap where Willie Mullins teams up with Ryan Moore with the improving four-year-old, **ETHICAL DIAMOND**.
- PP** **ETHICAL DIAMOND** continued his theme of race-by-race progress on his first start on the Flat when narrowly denied at Leopardstown six weeks ago.
- JW** **EPIC POET** (each-way) looks primed for a big handicap success having dropped to a mark of 97 after being highly-tried in his earlier career.
- RW** Willie Mullins saddles **ETHICAL DIAMOND** and Ryan Moore was keen to ride him over this 1m 4f trip.
- MC** **MARHABA THE CHAMP** (each-way) is very hard to predict but he's just the type to pop up and run well in a race like this now back handicapping.

5.40PM

### KING EDWARD VII STAKES 1M 4F

- MF** French challenger **CALANDAGAN** has won twice on soft ground at Longchamp but his sire was Gleneagles so he should cope with these faster conditions.
- PP** **SPACE LEGEND** would have surely run out a comfortable winner with a clear passage in a listed event at Goodwood last month.
- JW** **CALANDAGAN** has been going through the grades nicely in France and while a few of these are on recovery missions, he's on a roll.
- RW** The French horse **CALANDAGAN** gets my vote more by default than anything else.
- MC** **THEORY OF TIDES** (each-way) is very interesting. The unbeaten son of Galileo cost 500,000 guineas and was well on top at Yarmouth last time.

**PADDYPOWER.** NEWS

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