

# YORK EBOR '24

## PUNDITS' PICKS OF THE DAY

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 21<sup>ST</sup>



MICK FITZGERALD

PADDY POWER

JASON WEAVER

RUBY WALSH

MATT CHAPMAN

13:50

### SYMPHONY GROUP HANDICAP

- MF** **PILGRIM** is chasing a hat-trick and won the Prince of Holyroodhouse Handicap last time at Royal Ascot and that form has been well franked by those further down the field since.
- PP** The form of **SHAGRAAN**'s Goodwood win has already been boosted by the third and a 5lb rise seems feasible.
- JW** Despite taking on older horses **PILGRIM** is one of the young pretenders on the block now. He took his form to another level with an easy win at Ascot.
- RW** **SQUEALER** (each-way) could give you a run for your money as a 'saver' with Paddy paying 6 places.
- MC** Pilgrim and Holkham Bay are up in the weights massively now, but there might still be a little bit more to come from **SHAGRAAN** (each-way) who was behind Pilgrim at Ascot recently, but gets 2lb here.

15:00

### GREAT VOLTIGEUR STAKES

- MF** Ballydoyle obviously want to ensure a strong gallop but **KING'S GAMBIT** may be the surprise package to deny the Irish raiders.
- PP** **KING'S GAMBIT** confirmed the impression he made after winning the London Gold Cup, finishing runner-up in Group races both starts since against older horses.
- JW** I expect **LOS ANGELES** to be doing his best work at the end of this 1m 4f trip. The Irish Derby winner can enhance his St Leger claims with victory now.
- RW** **LOS ANGELES** was always holding the opposition in the Irish Derby – always just doing enough. He's my nap.
- MC** On ratings King's Gambit is right in the mix getting 5lb from **LOS ANGELES**, but I think the latter will grind this out with the run on the race near the front end.

16:10

### STAYERS HANDICAP

- MF** Despite carrying plenty of weight now in this two-mile handicap, we don't really know how good **SAMUI** is yet on the Flat as he's very lightly-raced.
- PP** Gordon Elliott's unexposed stayer **SAMUI** remains hard to side against despite taking a 13lb hike after spread-eagling his field at Killarney last time.
- JW** The handicapper has left **KNIGHTSWOOD** alone surprisingly, despite a good effort last time when unlucky in the run at Goodwood.
- RW** **TRITONIC** (each-way) has been dropped a few lbs this season. He ran very poorly at Royal Ascot over 2m 4f before improving at Goodwood.
- MC** **KNIGHTSWOOD** (each-way) was a real eye-catcher at Goodwood when behind the placed Great Bedwyn. This is his first time at York and has all the attributes to go well.

17:20

### NURSERY HANDICAP

- MF** **NUMBER** is a long shot who's really going to be suited to the track. He got beat a nose at Ascot last time and that's an uphill finish which is not the case here at York.
- PP** **CAYMAN TAI** might be able to turn the tables on Goodwood conqueror Artagan on these revised terms as the winner got first run that day.
- JW** **PENINSULA POWER** (each-way) hasn't set the world alight in three outings but his trainer Richard Fahey has gone on record suggesting that the assessor may have let him in very lightly for this big prize.
- MC** **INVITED** is the eachway hope for Richard Hannon and David Egan.

14:25

### TATTERSALLS ACOMB STAKES

- MF** This looks a match on paper between **RULING COURT** and The Lion In Winter. Godolphin's runner was a big ticket purchase at the sales and may just have the measure of the Irish challenger.
- PP** Costing over £2m at the sales, **RULING COURT** then marked himself down as a high-class prospect when making a successful debut at Sandown.
- JW** Visually impressive and posted a good time on the clock, **RULING COURT** could be a big mover in next year's Derby market if he wins this.
- RW** I just prefer what **RULING COURT** did on debut at Sandown over The Lion In Winter.
- MC** It's not hard to think **RULING COURT** will take all the beating for Charlie Appleby and William Buick. He was very impressive at Sandown on debut.

15:35

### JUDDMONTE INTERNATIONAL STAKES

- MF** There is no doubting City Of Troy's ability but this 10f trip at York mightn't play to his strengths. I prefer the chances of **GHOSTWRITER** (each-way) at the prices.
- PP** It's the race of the summer where Epsom Derby winner **CITY OF TROY**, who wasn't impressive in the Eclipse last time, can show just how good he is.
- JW** Maljoom posted an excellent effort 21 days ago and should hit the line strong over this 10f trip. City of Troy could be the superstar in the field but **MALJOOM** (each-way) looks the play.
- RW** City Of Troy wasn't impressive in the Coral Eclipse Stakes despite winning it. I'm not sure he's an even-money shot to follow up though and I'll take him on with **ISRAR** (each-way).
- MC** **AMBIENTE FRIENDLY** (each-way) looked like a classic non-stayer over 1m 4f in the Epsom and Irish Derbies, but can hit the frame at least over this 1m 2f trip.

16:45

### ITM FILLIES' HANDICAP

- MF** Star Of Lady M beat Rosy Affair on her last start at Newmarket but before that, Rosy Affair had beaten one of the market leaders now, Gutsy Girl. I'd sooner row in with **STAR OF LADY M** (each-way).
- PP** **GOT TO LOVE A GREY** proved there were still signs of life when runner-up at Goodwood just under three weeks ago and the one behind has won since.
- JW** **GOT TO LOVE A GREY** has run herself into decent form again and put up a smart performance over the very sharp 5 furlongs at Goodwood last time.
- MC** **JUMBEAU** might have a little each-way chance here for Tom Clover in a wide open sprint. The selection was a decent winner at Windsor earlier this term and wasn't disgraced at Ascot.

**PADDYPOWER.** NEWS  
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