

## PUNDITS' PICKS OF THE DAY



JASON WEAVER



MATT CHAPMAN



MICK FITZGERALD



FRANK HICKEY



PADDY POWER

### 1.15PM THE BUCKINGHAM PALACE HANDICAP

- JW** **FLAMING SPEAR** each-way at a big price for me to kick things off nicely.
- MC** I will have a few quid each-way on **KAESO** who just loves these types of events and gets Oisín Murphy on board for Nigel Tinkler.
- MF** Great to see full fields for the handicaps and I am going for a bit of value in the opening event with **GREENSIDE** each-way.
- FH** **FLAMING SPEAR** is a big price for a horse that was rated 9lbs higher just a year ago. Trip, ground & draw look ideal and he looks a fair each way play.
- PP** Market vibes suggested **DAARIK** was meant to come on a lot for his last run, but won impressively nonetheless. Gosden & Frankie first up, what's not to like!

### 1.50PM THE QUEEN ANNE STAKES (GROUP 1)

- JW** **SKARDU** should of strengthened into his frame with another winter on his back. The yard are coming into form at just the right moment.
- MC** I have to take on Circus Maximus and will risk **MOHAATHER** each-way at a big price. I have a feeling he's going to be very good for Marcus Tregoning at some point this term.
- MF** **MUSTASHRY** beat a very good field when winning last season's Lockinge Stakes at Newbury over the straight mile. He looks a great each-way bet at the prices.
- FH** **MOHAATHER** looked like he was going to be a big player in last year's Guineas before an injury ruled him out. Said to be working really well and he looks a fair price in an open looking event.
- PP** **ROSEMAN** is still unexposed and if he handles the quicker ground, which I think he will, he has a massive chance at a price.

### 2.25PM THE RIBBLESDALE STAKES (GROUP 2)

- JW** Hard to look past the favourite **FRANKLY DARLING** now that Born with Pride is a non runner.
- MC** I have to side with the favourite **FRANKLY DARLING**, who impressed so many at Newcastle first time. John Gosden has a great record in the race.
- MF** **FRANKLY DARLING** won nicely at Newcastle over 10f and the step up in trip is a perfect fit for this daughter of Frankel.
- FH** **TREFOIL** looked to be crying out for this trip when third at Newmarket over 10f last week. She should improve for that run.
- PP** I'm surprised that Ryan Moore chose to ride stablemate Passion over **ENNISTYMON** but sure what does he know! With the usual Aidan O'Brien improvement he could go close.

### 3.00PM THE KING EDWARD VII STAKES (GROUP 2)

- JW** **MOGUL** wasn't disgraced in Group One company at Newcastle and you don't need reminding how strong that form is. He could, as they say, literally be anything.
- MC** **MOGUL** has to be the selection here, for the legend that is Aidan O'Brien.
- MF** **MOGUL** should be winning this contest if he is to be a live candidate for next month's Epsom Derby. Mohican Heights could be the danger.
- FH** **MOGUL** has been touted as Coolmore's Derby horse and he has to be winning here to be a player at Epsom.
- PP** **MOGUL** is banker material. If he's right, he'll win. The only doubt is that it's a Derby prep and he's not fully wound up.

### 3.35PM THE KING'S STAND STAKES (GROUP 1)

- JW** If Battaash decides to turn up we may all be playing second fiddle but the race has a fantastic each way look about it and **WELL DONE FOX** is a massive price each-way.
- MC** Obviously I have to be with **BATTAASH**, who is the best sprinter in the world when he brings his 'A' game. The only slight issue is he does not always run to his best!
- MF** He's an odds-on favourite but **BATTAASH** has the perfect opportunity for that elusive first victory at Ascot.
- FH** Battaash is the one to beat but is a short price and **LIBERTY BEACH** is progressive and is my each way play.
- PP** **GLASS SLIPPERS** hammered the unreliable Battaash in the Abbaye, albeit on softer ground than ideal, is a sprinter on the up who should be involved in the business end of this.

### 4.10PM THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE STAKES (GROUP 2)

- JW** **JUBILOSO'S** form around here up at the highest level in Group One company is by far and away the best on offer.
- MC** **NAZEEF** is on a roll but I'll back **JUBILOSO** each-way for Sir Michael Stoute and Ryan Moore. She was third in the Coronation Stakes in 2019 and that might be good enough.
- MF** **LAVENDERS BLUE** looks good value to hit the frame and is owned by Benny Andersson of ABBA.
- FH** **LAVENDERS BLUE** is very unexposed over a mile and I think the market underestimates her chance. She is the one to beat in my eyes.
- PP** **NAZEEF** is a solid selection who keeps improving and keeps winning. If he doesn't win, whatever beats him will have had to work hard to do it.

### 4.40PM THE ASCOT STAKES (HANDICAP)

- JW** **QULOOB** ran a belter here over two miles when lumping 10 stone and was finishing off his race quite strongly. That looked an ideal prep for this test and is a big price in a tricky finale.
- MC** It's **DUBAWI FIFTY** each-way for me for Karen McLintock and Adam Kirby. The 2018 runner-up is back on a mark to perform with aplomb once again.
- MF** I'll take a punt with **BLUE LAUREATE** each-way for trainer Ian Williams. He was second at Haydock last week so should be fighting fit and can run a big race.
- FH** **PIANISSIMO** is still quite unexposed and is two from four in handicaps, while his recent start was no more than a prep run for this race. Frankie Dettori is booked.
- PP** A jumps trainer usually wins this and **VERDANA BLUE** is the best hurdler in the race by some way. She might lap them!

