

ROYAL ASCOT CHEAT SHEET

PUNDITS' PICKS FOR DAY THREE

THURSDAY, JUNE 17

TIMEFORM

MICK FITZGERALD

JASON WEAVER

FRANK HICKEY

MATT CHAPMAN



2:30PM

GRADE 2 NORFOLK STAKES 5F

- TF** **NAKATOMI** needs to prove his effectiveness on turf but he was well on top of a subsequent Stakes winner when making a successful start at Keeneland.
- MF** **CADAMOSTO** won nicely at Dundalk and it's interesting that he has not run since, so that fills me with confidence.
- JW** The rain may come in time for **PROJECT DANTE** and the form stacks up from York.
- FH** **PROJECT DANTE** impressed me with the way he travelled when winning at York and that race has provided plenty of future winners.
- MC** **CADAMOSTO** looked green on debut but eventually got going to win well at Dundalk. Should have place claims at least for Aidan O'Brien and Ryan Moore.

3:40PM

GROUP 2 RIBBLESDALE STAKES 1M 4F

- TF** Roger Varian's unbeaten **ESHAADA** improved to win a Listed contest at Newbury on reappearance and can bring up an impressive hat-trick.
- MF** **NOON STAR** was narrowly beaten by Snowfall at York but there was no disgrace in that. She can make amends now.
- JW** **NOON STAR** has built an impressive profile particularly when you take her second to subsequent Oaks winner Snowfall into consideration.
- FH** The impeccably bred **NOON STAR** split the first two in the Epsom Oaks at York in the Musidora Stakes and that level of form could be enough to win this.
- MC** **TWISTED REALITY** has each-way claims. She impressed on debut last season at Nottingham and was fancied on her return at Newbury when fourth and should appreciate the step up in trip.

5:00PM

BRITANNIA STAKES H'CAP 1M

- TF** **MITHRAS** had excuses last time but was impressive in taking a 7f Newbury handicap on his return. Aerion Power and Raadobarg are likely dangers.
- MF** **AERION POWER** is one I fancy for Sir Michael Stoute. He is a master trainer at bringing horses on and is my selection each-way.
- JW** **AKMAAM** drops back to handicap company and with the blinkers on can run a big race from a high draw (31) at a tasty each-way price.
- FH** **SUMMA PETO** ran a really quick time at Wolverhampton last time and provided the ground doesn't ease too much, he can go well at a big price.
- MC** **GRID** might run well here for Joseph O'Brien. A mark of 92 looks very workable and I expect a very bold show. Have a few quid on each-way.

6:10PM

BUCKINGHAM PALACE STAKES H'CAP 7F

- TF** **DANYAH** advanced his form again when runner-up in a strong early-season handicap at Newbury in April. Persuasion is feared, along with Aldaary.
- MF** David O'Meara will have **SHELMIR** primed after a good run at Epsom when he finished second on soft ground at this trip. He looks good value in what could be a messy race.
- JW** Any rain will help **LORD CAMPARI** who makes his handicap debut and has a nice draw in stall 19 over this straight seven furlong trip.
- FH** I've always thought **MILLTOWN STAR** had a big handicap in him and this could be it at a huge price.
- MC** **BLUE MIST** has the talent to score here if he is in the mood. This is his course and distance and he has a handicap mark that is very fair.

3:05PM

GROUP 3 HAMPTON COURT STAKES 1M 2F

- TF** **MOHAAFETH** missed the Derby but was seriously impressive in a Newmarket Listed race last month and ought to take a good deal of stopping.
- MF** **MOHAAFETH** missed the Derby because of soft ground and if he's pulled out because the rain arrives One Ruler can take advantage.
- JW** It's last chance saloon time for **ONE RULER**. He'll be better over 10f and any rain will help him and hinder the favourite.
- FH** **MOVIN TIME** showed a potent turn of foot last time out at Newmarket which suggests he is a horse of considerable ability. He can take the step up in grade in his stride.
- MC** Hard not to be all over **MOHAAFETH** after a couple of wins at Newmarket. He has a good draw and this trip should be perfect.

4:15PM

ASCOT GOLD CUP 2M 4F

- TF** **STRADIVARIUS** has dominated this division since 2018 & a fourth Gold Cup beckons. Subjectivist and Trueshan look the dangers.
- MF** The dominant horse in this division **STRADIVARIUS** can make his class tell and bag a fourth Gold Cup.
- JW** **STRADIVARIUS** needs no introduction and should win but Trueshan will make it a test until the turbos kick in for the favourite under Frankie Dettori.
- FH** Stradivarius goes for an historic fourth Gold Cup win but Dubai Gold Cup winner **SUBJECTIVIST** can burst his bubble now.
- MC** **STRADIVARIUS** has won the last three Gold Cups as most of you will know and I fully expect him to make it four in a row.

5:35PM

KING GEORGE V STAKES H'CAP 1M 4F

- TF** **FIRST LIGHT** routed his field at Ripon last time and gets a narrow vote to make a successful transition to handicap company.
- MF** **SISKANY** was so superior at Sandown when beating Surefire that even a decent weight pull for the second isn't enough to turn the tables in my opinion.
- JW** **SISKANY** is a rapidly improving three-year-old and he goes in looking for the four timer off a very lenient handicap mark of just 96. He ticks a lot of boxes.
- FH** **SURREY GOLD** got a warranted 12lbs for his Newbury win last time and the form is working out. He has a huge chance of following up.
- MC** I'm going to back **KONDO ISAMI** each-way. He's got proven stamina and his trainer Mark Johnston has a great record in these types of handicaps.

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