

ROYAL ASCOT CHEAT SHEET

PUNDITS' PICKS FOR DAY TWO

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16

TIMEFORM

MICK FITZGERALD

JASON WEAVER

FRANK HICKEY

MATT CHAPMAN



2:30PM

GROUP 2 QUEEN MARY STAKES 5F

- TF** Wesley Ward can win this for a fifth time, with his exciting **TWILIGHT GLEAMING** making most appeal of these.
- MF** The American two-year-olds are lightning fast and **TWILIGHT GLEAMING** could be very hard to catch from the gates.
- JW** In a race loaded with natural pace **NYMPHADORA** will be hitting the line strongly.
- FH** **EVE LODGE** might be a massive price but I think she has a massive chance. I would nearly go as far as to say she is my best bet of the week.
- MC** **ILLUSTRATING** looked good on debut at Catterick and while that mightn't be Royal Ascot winning form she could be hard to keep out of the places.

3:40PM

GROUP 2 DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE STAKES 1M

- TF** **LADY BOWTHORPE** pulled clear of the remainder when runner-up to Palace Pier in the Lockinge Stakes at Newbury last month and she can take advantage now back against her own sex.
- MF** There was not a lot between Lady Bowthorpe and **QUEEN POWER** at Newmarket in May and Sir Michael Stoute's runner has improved from that run as she showed when winning easily at York.
- JW** **LADY BOWTHORPE** looked as good as ever on return at Newmarket and proved that was no flash in the pan with a fantastic second up at the top table at Newbury.
- FH** **DOUBLE OR BUBBLE** is fast improving and has strong each way claims.
- MC** **LADY BOWTHORPE** has to be the one to beat as she is improving with every race, and ran an absolute cracker last time when second to Palace Pier.

5:00PM

ROYAL HUNT CUP 1M

- TF** **FINEST SOUND** was runner-up in the Britannia over course and distance at last year's Royal meeting. He's advanced his form again since and might be the answer to a typically tricky Hunt Cup.
- MF** The strong travelling **CLIFFS OF CAPRI** can sneak into a place in what is one of the trickiest handicaps of the season.
- JW** **IRISH ADMIRAL** was caught out by slow ground at Epsom but can bounce back now on better ground in this mega-competitive handicap.
- FH** The draw makes it tricky, so I will pick one from each side in **BEAT LE BON** (2) and **ASTRO KING** (27).
- MC** **ASTRO KING** has a very high draw in stall 27 so it has to be taken on trust that the high numbers are not at a huge disadvantage. He was very unlucky when third in the Thirsk Hunt Cup when he just got going far too late.

6:10PM

KENSINGTON PALACE STAKES 1M

- TF** The narrow vote goes in favour of **DREAMLOPER** who was just touched off by the re-opposing Lights On over 1m here last month.
- MF** **DECLARED INTEREST** was third to Dreamloper at this venue last year but the winner that day has gone up a lot in the ratings since then. He can get his reward now.
- JW** **FFION** ran really well to finish second at Haydock despite a difficult passage and has had a month to recover from her exertions.
- FH** **WALIYAK** went close in last year's Sandringham Handicap and she looks like a value each-way play with the forecast strong pace likely to really suit her.
- MC** **DREAMLOPER** was just touched off last time and really should have won. He's 1lb better off with the winner Lights On who repposes and that can make the difference this time.

3:05PM

GROUP 2 QUEEN'S VASE 1M 6F

- TF** **WORDSWORTH** tackles 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ m for the first time and being a full brother to St Leger winner Kew Gardens is taken to continue his trainer's domination in this race. Ruling looks a danger.
- MF** Jessica Harrington reaches for the blinkers on **TAIPAN** who looks an each-way alternative in a very open race.
- JW** **KEMARI** has untapped potential and the fact they've pitched him straight into a much stronger level says he has bounced out of that last victory in top order.
- FH** Aidan O'Brien has won this contest five times in the last eight years and he can enhance that record here with **WORDSWORTH**.
- MC** **WORDSWORTH** has proven stamina and should take all the beating under Ryan Moore. Could prove hard to stop.

4:20PM

GROUP 1 PRINCE OF WALES'S STAKES 1M 2F

- TF** **ARMORY** made an impressive return at Chester and while he has a small amount to find with Love and Lord North at the weights, he has a fitness edge over that pair.
- MF** The superstar filly **LOVE** was so good last year when winning the Oaks at Epsom and the Yorkshire Oaks that I am hoping she will be too good for these again.
- JW** **LORD NORTH** looks to follow up last year's win and is match fit at a course he loves.
- FH** Love is the class act but I think this is the day **ARMORY** finally wins a Group 1.
- MC** **LOVE** looked like she could be one of the greats last year and if she's as good as I think, she can take this on her return to action for the Aidan O'Brien and Ryan Moore team.

5:35PM

LISTED WINDSOR CASTLE STAKES 5F

- TF** **RUTHIN** hammered nine rivals on debut at Keeneland and the runner-up has won since. She could have too much pace for these.
- MF** Another strong American raider in **RUTHIN** who can ping from the gates for Wesley Ward. The others may find it hard to keep up.
- JW** **SPRING IS SPRUNG** is firmly on an upward curve and the fact Andrew Balding has let Oisín Murphy off his runner to partner the Queen's horse suggests that they mean business.
- FH** I liked the way that **ERNIE'S VALENTINE** won on debut and he is a big price so he will do each-way for me in this race.
- MC** **RUTHIN** looked really good at Keeneland. I suspect she will be very hard to beat for Wesley Ward and Frankie Dettori against the boys.

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