

**TEAM HHH, 2026**  
**International Racing Tip Sheet VIII**  
**“Follow the Jockey”**  
**May 23-24**

**Saturday, May 23rd Curragh Ireland**  
**Saturday, May 23rd, Haydock, UK**  
**Sunday, May 24th Curragh, Ireland**

The first Irish Classics take centre stage in Europe, with the Irish 2,000 Guineas at the Curragh on Sunday and the Irish 1,000 Guineas on Sunday. Earlier on the Sunday, it's the Japanese Oaks at Tokyo. I had intended to cover that, but I ran out of road at the time of writing the Tip Sheet. The best racing in the UK on Saturday will be at Haydock with the G2 Temple Stakes the highlight at the suburban Liverpool track.

## Curragh

### R2 08:55 Orby Stakes Listed 1M 4F

**4 (2) Emit 10/1**

**2 Stars**

I initially narrowed this down to a 2 horse race Juddmonte's Purview 11/4 Fav for Dermot Weld (who was crossed entered in better race on Sunday) and **4 (2) Emit 10/1** running in the Niarchos colours for Jessica Harrington. I have sided with Emit, just. The horse ran a respectable 2 /12 length 4th first up this season. Purview will be having his first run. Emit was entered in a G2 in Berlin two weeks ago. That was a tough race. I was there. This is much easier. They have high expectations and this should put the horse right for any number of the middle or longer distance races at Royal Ascot. 2 Stars.

### R3 09:30 EST Handicap 10F

**14 (3) War Rooms 40/1**

**5 Stars**

A 21 runner handicap with most of the UK tipsters twisting themselves into pretzels trying to decipher of which of the three in form Paddy Twomey horses to go with. I have gone with a horse sliding down the handicap **14 (3) War Rooms 40/1** for Gerard Keane. Seamie Heffernan takes the ride. Follow the Jockey! The horse is 1 from 17, with his only win coming in first career appearance. However, the horse run has run well in serious Group races, admittedly in the pack in races won by the likes of Ethical Diamond and Calandagan. The horse was entered in European Classics as 3 yr old. He is better than most of these salty handicappers and gets a weight break of at least 5lbs. He is drawn well and gets a seasoned jockey. You'll get a HUGE price. I am keen to play this one hard Each Way. 5 Stars

### R4 10:05 EST G2 Greenlands Stakes 6F

**6 (3) James Delight 12/1**

**2 Stars**

Sprint specialist trainer Clive Cox returns to Ireland with **6 (3) James Delight 12/1**. The horse won a G2 in Ireland last year. I would play the horse at half the price. That said, this is a wide open contest. 2 Stars.

## **R5 10:40 G1 Irish 2000 Guineas 1 M**

**1 (3) Alparlsan 17/2**

**2 Stars**

Gstaad is the 1/2 Fav. He ran a strong 2nd in the English 2,000 Guineas and probably takes all the beating. However, I was very impressed by **1 (3) Alparlsan 17/2** in the G3 Greenham Stakes at Newbury in April when he dispatched last year's champion 2 yr old Zavateri and highly touted Albert Einstein. Ok, he got the run of the race and a great ride from Clifford Lee. But I think there is more to come and he's a decent bet. The trainer knew what he had with Bow Echo, so saved Alparlsan for this. He is by the unfashionable Dandy Man out of a Toronado mare, so speed up top, stamina underneath. The horse is great value, currently 17/2. 2 Stars.

## **Haydock**

### **R1 08:45 Hedge of Oaks Stakes Listed 10 1/2 F**

**5 (8) Friendly Soul 7/2**

**3 Stars**

George Strawbridge's **5 (8) Friendly Soul** is a class animal, though temperamental and has not raced for nearly 2 years. That the horse remains in training a clue to her ability and their aspirations. She won the Prix de l'Opera on Arc Day at Paris Longchamp in 2024. If she ready she romps home. 9 (7) Wemighttakedlongway finished a fast closing unlucky 4th in last year's Opera and has already had a run this year. The early money has been for the Joseph O'Brien horse, but Gosden reaches Oisín Murphy and I am inclined to believe the drift 11/4 to 7/2 24-48 hours before the race are bookie shenanigans. I'll side with the George Strawbridge Fav here. I accept may not be match fit and will have bigger targets, but I'll go with the significant edge in class. 3 Stars

### **R3 09:58 EST G2 Sandy Lane Stakes 6F**

**8 (3) Venetian Sun 5/2**

**3 Stars**

This is tough, but it shouldn't be. A race fit **8 (3) Venetian Sun 5/2** (successfully tipped here at a great price at Royal Ascot last year) stepping back to 6 furlongs after failing to step to the mile in the 1,000 Guineas should pulverise these. 3 Stars

**7 (7) Spicy Marg 16/1**

**2 Stars**

The value has to be **7 (7) Spicy Marg 16/1** who finished 8th in the 1,000 Guineas at 50/1, but was also cut out for further. With a better draw in that race, she could have done better. She could pop up here. There has been early money for Spicy Marg. 2 Stars.

#### R4 10:30 EST G2 Temple Stakes 5F

**7 (6) Night Raider**

**3 Stars**

**7 (6) Night Raider** was an emphatic winner of the Palace House Stakes at Newmarket on Guineas weekend. The horse thrives on firm and despite an inclement week, a heat wave has just hit the Metro Liverpool area. The ground will be good. Wathnan horses are hard to ignore. Karl Burke trained horses even harder to ignore. 3 Stars

**13 (2) Argentine Tango 66/1**

**1 Star**

I am adding a place play here also. **13 (2) Argentine Tango 66/1** was very fast over 6F second up. Faded late. This after a 4th place finish over 5 1/2 F in a G3 at Chantilly in April. There was money for her that day on the PMU in France. Who knew? She led till late on and finished a one length 4th. She is lowest rated and in theory shouldn't stand a chance against this esteemed G1 & G2 hard knockers, but she could catch a few out from the 2 gate and hold for a price at 66/1. Duran Fentiman rides. He is a Tyler Bacon type young rider. Takes the gaps. Knows when to attack. I am playing the horse Each Way small stakes and bigger stakes on the place market. 2 Stars

## Sunday

### Curragh

#### R2 09:15 EST G3 Marble Hill Stakes 6F

**4 (1) Great Barrier Reef 1/1**

**4 Stars**

**4 (1) Great Barrier Reef 1/1.** The obvious Fav for Aiden O'Brien. Impressive first up at the Curragh in mid April. Ryan Moore sticks. 4 Stars

#### R3 09:45 EST BYD Spring Fillies Handicap

**7 (11) Green Carrera S/P**

**5 Stars**

**7 (11) Green Carrera S/P** I was an unlucky fast finishing 2nd first up. The market went for her late that day. I was on. I lost. I will be on again. Dylan Browne McMonagle retains the ride for Joseph O'Brien. Royal Ascot prospect, I think. 5 Stars

#### R4 10:20 EST G2 Lawandes Stud Stakes 1 Mile

**8 (10) One Look S/P**

**3 Stars**

Great start to the season for 4 (5) City of Memphis for Wathnan comprehensively winning at G3 At Leopardstown. However, James Doyle flies over to ride the other Paddy Twomey, **8 (10) One Look.** Doyle is the Wathnan rider. I like the horse (tipped him in last year's Opera when a fast finishing 3rd) and will give her the edge. 3 Stars

**R5 10:55 EST G1 Tattersalls Gold Cup 1M 2 1/2 F**

**6 (6) Saddadd is 9/2**

**4 Stars**

**6 (6) Saddadd is 9/2** showed an explosive turn of foot when held up in last to power away over the final furlong to the win the G3 Gordon Richard's Stakes at Sandown last month. Aiden O'Brien's Minnie Hawk was also a good winner of her seasonal reappearance in the G2 Moresbridge and she'll be the hot Fav. Saddadd has been taking money. And there was late money that day at Sandown. I tipped the horse up then at 7/2 and it went off at 2/1. They knew. Roger Varian and Ray Dawson to beat up on the O'Brien mare is the bet for me. Some may not be so impressed by the defeat of King of Cities, but that's a horse I respect and who I will play next time. 4 Stars

**R6 11:30 EST Irish 1,000 Guineas 1 Mile**

**2 (4) American Queen 16/1**

**3 Stars**

12 (1) True Love is hot Fav to win her 2nd Classic this year. Ryan Moore takes over from Wayne Lordan. She was on my short last time though I didn't play her. She seems primed to repeat, but 11/10 seems too short to pile in I will be therefore taking an Each Way swing here with **2 (4) American Queen 16/1** with Billy "The Kid" Loughnane riding for Richard Hughes. The horse was chinned on the line in the 7 Furlong Nell Gwyn Guineas trial at Newmarket. I believe I recall the trainer says the Curragh may suit the horse better than Newmarket. The grey filly is the value place play. 3 Stars.

***Next weekend, May 30-31st, We'll be covering the Prix du Jockey Club (aka the French Derby) from Chantilly and the Japanese Derby from Tokyo. The weekend after that, we be focussed in THE DERBY from Epsom on June 6th (and THE OAKS on Friday, June 5th).***