

**TEAM HHH, 2026**  
**International Racing Tip Sheet IX**  
**“Follow the Jockey”**  
**Friday, June 5th**  
**The Oaks**  
**Epsom Downs, England**

7 Winners last week and 9 others placed, several of which tough nose hair beats. I have tried to bring attention to the big occasions across many other global jurisdictions. For example, Australia winding down their season with the Brisbane Carnival in tropical Queensland, while the South Africans set up camp on the Indian Ocean in tropical Durban with Africa's biggest race coming there in early July. Nick Luck will be there for that, I hear.

And now to what they say is the most important race in the World, The Derby. We'll cover The Oaks card from Epsom Downs here first on Friday, with the HHH Intl Tip Sheet X Part I. We'll then drop down to the Southern Hemisphere for the Brisbane card before returning to Epsom and The Derby with Intl Tip Sheet X, Part II tomorrow and maybe a Japanese G1 on Sunday. And all this while you focus on the final leg of the American Triple Crown. What a sport!

## **Friday**

### **Epsom Downs**

#### **R1 08:30 EST 3 yr Old Dash Handicap 5F**

**1 (7) Rosie Frith 25/1**

**2 Stars**

Epsom is a predominately downhill for the 5 furlong sprinters and when dry often sees records broken for this distance. It has been raining at Epsom and I am playing a provincial Irish yoke Each Way in this 16 horse field. 1 (7) Rosie Frith is 25/1 is the Each Way value especially with my bookie offering an extended 5 places, so bet accordingly with your ADW. The horse handles soft breaks well, but can get nabbed late. I am betting that mostly downhill course will advance his cause. A competent bug, Patrick McGettigan takes 5 lbs off and if he can grab the near side rail early, that may make him hard to catch. There is a less of a late rise of ground on that side of the track. Win the start and you probably win the race.

#### **R2 09:05 EST Woodcote Stakes 6F**

**1 (12) Alpe d'Huez 13/2**

**2 Stars**

I am not convinced with the top two in the betting in this 2 yr old contest. This is a class 2. My bet 1 (12) Alpe d'Huez 13/2 has only won a class 5, albeit impressively. Trainer Archie Watson is cold these past two weeks, with 7% strike rate, but 2 yr olds are his speciality. I particular like that the owners The Middleham Park syndicate reach for their trusted rider, the clumsy moving though no less effective, Arc winning rider, Luke Morris. He often pops up on their best horses. Draw could be better, hence just a 2 Star play.

### R3 09:40 G3 Diomed Stakes 8 1/2 F

#### Box Trifecta 3, 4 & 7.

This race is for horses that have been close to the big time, such as Qirat, the Juddmonte rabbit who landed the G1 Sussex Stakes last year. Money has been trickling in for **7 (8) Seagulls Eleven** (owned by Premier League soccer player from Brighton whose nickname is the Seagulls) who just prevailed in a Listed race in France recently. Oisín Murphy rides. Are the soccer players playing their horse or are punters playing Murphy? Karl Burke's **3 (6) Ice Max** has good Epsom form and should be taken seriously. Sam James rides. Stable jockey Clifford Lee is on the other Karl Burke. Sam James is the Son in Law and the trainer occasionally throws him a bone. I think last year's winner **4 (1) Persica** is the best horse in the race, but not by much and 5/2 is no value in such a contest. Persica was a decent 4th first up in a tough Class 1 affair at Newmarket won by Damysus, a Gosden horse who has G1 entries throughout the Summer and is well in the market for the G1 Queen Anne at Royal Ascot. The Chinese punters are playing this in the World Pool, so why not take a crack at a Trifecta. I will be boxing the 3, 4 and 7.

### R4 10:15 EST Nifty 50 Handicap 10 F

#### 3 (16) Sallaal

#### 4 Stars

**3 (16) Sallaal 3/1** may seem the 3/1 lukewarm Fav in this 16 runner handicap, but the money has been coming. This horse was 5/1 early on Wed. Some of you may know the dam Nahrain for the same connections, winner of G1 Flower Bowl at Belmont Park about a decade ago. The horse is by Frankel so has both the speed and stamina for this. Some bookies are offering 5 places here, enticing punters to look for Each Way long shots. I may do that if I liked one, but I don't. I am going with the class of the field, a horse that looked like he would come on many lengths for his seasonable return when a fast closing 2nd at Epsom in April. Ray Dawson rides.

## R5 11:00 EST G1 The Oaks, 1 Mile 4F

### Boxed Trifecta 1, 2, 8 & 9

I had been tempted to make a major case for **8 (5) Thundering On** for Joseph O'Brien and the savvy Indian connections, the Mistrys. The filly should get the distance. She powered home by 3 lengths in a G3 at Navan the last time, breaking through a gap between horses that didn't seem to be there. They have chosen this race over the Prix Diane in two weeks time because this race is easier. Dylan Browne McMonagle (Remember him) flies in from Ireland for the ride. All the shrewd tipsters are tipping her. I could easily attach myself to that bandwagon, but I am not totally confident. I also really like the Aiden O'Brien Fav **2 (4) Amelia Earhart 9/4**, all stamina on the pedigree with Camelot up top and dour stayer Duke of Marmalade below and proven at the distance when winning the Cheshire Oaks convincingly at Chester last month, but she's no slam dunk. The main threat for mine is the Wathnan entry **1 (2) A La Prochaine 10/1** for Ralph Beckett, a closing 3rd that day at Chester and a winner on soft as a 2 yr old. Ordinarily, she would be my Each Way play at 10/1. Few of the others convince me at the distance or at the likely softer surface, except perhaps what I consider to be the minor threat **9 (8) Venetian Lace** for Charlie Johnston. This horse has not gone the distance but ran on well enough for 3rd in the 1,000 Guineas. Another subtle almost intangible angle for me is that the Johnston barn is the highest in England. It's no high altitude training up in Dolomites, but the barn does get them fit for distance. I see these three fighting it out down the lane. The Lads v The Al Thanis v The Maktoums. Or Moore v Doyle v Buick. Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose. But then all of sudden Thundering On breaks through and the Mistrys and McMonagle join the party. It really could go either way, hence I am playing a boxed Trifecta, the 1, 2, 8 & 9. The Chinese punters will be playing hard in Hong Kong, so this World Pool Trifecta should have serious liquidity.

## R6 11:40 EST World Pool Handicap, 8 1/2 F

### 11 (14) Stem 6/1

### 5 Stars

My play of the day is **11 (14) Stem 6/1**. I really like this horse for the Hunt Cup over a Mile at Royal Ascot. The horse has an entry for that and I have already played him at 50/1 for that. That race can be massively oversubscribed and the dilemma is that he could get balloted out of the 30 runner field because of an insufficient rating. I know Hannon had G1 intentions with this horse last year, but was compromised by niggling early season injuries. He won't want too high a rating, but he also won't to drop so much in the ratings and not get a run. He gets piles of weight (7-10 lbs) off his most likely competitors here. He has turf Calyx furlong speed up top and Bernadini stamina below. He is the confident play providing the conditions don't transition to heavy, which I don't believe it will.