

TEAM HHH
International Racing Tip Sheet
June 17th, 2025
Royal Ascot, Day 1

*****Note...when you see this below next to a horse, for example 3 (8), that means the horse is #3 in the program breaking from gate #8***

R1 09:30 am EST Queen Anne Stakes 1 Mile

The scratching of Sardinia Warrior has messed up all my arrangements as he was my play.

The positives about the 9/4 Fav **10 (10) Rosallion** are that he is best on a firm, straight track. And he should come on for his seasonable reappearance in the Gr1 Lockinge at Newbury. The one niggling doubt is that he ended his season early last year with some respiratory issues. If it was reported as pneumonia then I'd be off the horse, but it has been a super hot Spring and whatever lung infection there was has long been baked out of his lungs by now. Lead Artist and Dancing Gemini had the advantageous strip of ground in that Newbury race, but Rosallion was closing. I am happy to take them both on, particularly Dancing Gemini who needs Good to Soft, not Good to Firm. The same logic applies to Notable Speech who was behind Rosallion in that recent Newbury race, not to mention being 6 lengths behind Rosallion in the St James Palace last year. My main win bet will be on Rosallion.

Lake Forest and Docklands have both been famous for fifteen minutes in Australia. This is a notch above for both of them, particularly Docklands who won an Ascot handicap last year, but was an 11 length 5th in the Cox Plate for his Aussie owners. Lake Forest bagged the nearly \$4 Million Gr1 Golden Eagle over 7 1/2 furlongs at Rosehill in Sydney. It was a strange race with the French and Japanese favoured shippers not firing and the race full of Aussie 6 furlong sprinters trying to go an extra furlong and a half. Cieran Fallon went beyond the legal whips to whistle Lake Forest up along the rail late. **He could grab a place.** Quddwah is a notch below both of them.

This leaves two horses who could pop up to win. **4 (1) Diego Velazquez** began to show serious form late last year with two wins over a mile and 9 furlongs in Group contests, but "niggles" and bizarre gate circumstances have kept him from running since last September. He was 16/1 when the entries were announced. He is now 10/1. He is a long striding sort who will be suited by a stiff straight mile providing the pace is on. But can he win first up (off the layoff)? He just might, but I would not invest too much on the win angle. Next **2 (8) Carl Spackler**. He needs no introduction. He is fighting fit and could win or grab a piece of this. He has been bought for the Cox Plate, the Southern Hemisphere premiere Weight for Age Middle

Distance race. That would be around the tight track of Moonee Valley. So this does not seem an ideal preparation. He cost millions for the Chinese connections, Yulong, and has been supplemented for this race. You would think they expect to, at the very least, place in the money to recuperate the supplementary fee and the onward shipping costs. He has to be included on all tickets. The English punters will ignore him despite James

McDonald getting the leg up, though the Hong Kong cats (familiar with James McDonald) and Yulong will likely be steaming in, especially now that the other Chinese owned horse, Sardinian Warrior is out. Last but not least, do not sleep on Cairo, formerly with Coolmore, but now running for Kuwaiti connections. He likes to go forward and loves firm ground. He opened the week at 100/1, but is now 50/1. He could hang around and is not a bad horse to latch on to any Trifecta play, behind Lake Forest, Carl Spackler and Diego Velazquez.

R2 10:05 am EST Coventry Stakes 6F

21 runners in this race and I will ultimately tip up a horse I tipped about a month ago on the tip sheet. The conventional wisdom is that the near side or the grandstand side, which are the high drawn horses (larger gate numbers) is the place to be in large straight fields like this. However, the going stick points to the far side or inside rail and centre as having the drier or faster ground.

In a race like this it makes sense to order your short list in draw order. I have done that and found that of the seven horses on my shortlist, four are drawn 15 or higher and two horses drawn centrally and one horse drawn low. The advantage is probably to the high draws given the pace and quality of both horses and riders.

The first thing to note is that the Aiden O'Brien duet are not on my shortlist. The ante post odds on hit Fav for this race was Albert Einstein. He had a setback. I am against the two afterthought Coolmore back ups, Gstaad and Warsaw.

The largest price on my short list drew the 1 marble, **19 (1) Tricky Tel** 40/1. He is part owned by former Liverpool star forward (soccer), Michael Owen, and has won impressively at the circular Chester track. He is 40/1 because he has drawn low and is not owned by Coolmore, Godolphin or Watnam. The horse is by unfashionable £5,000 a visit sire, but this is the Kodiak line and there is proven speed. The step up to 6 F should be no problem with Galileo on the dam side. Colin Keane gets the nod. A great place shout or maybe more if he can sneak away.

Money has come for **1 (8) American Gulf** 10/1, probably because some tipster in the racing press has tipped him, but with Oisín Murphy up, this horse who made his winning debut two weeks ago is hard to ignore. Another centrally drawn horse who I like a lot and could surprise at big odds is **3 (11) Ballistic Missile** 28/1 for Yulong.

It is impossible to leave any son of Mehmas out of your permutations, particularly for a trainer that once trained Mehmas and regularly does well in this race.

There are only two sons of Mehmas in this race. And but for the temporary Ascot contract offered to James McDonald by Wathnam, you'd probably expect J Mac to have stayed in the Yulong silks in this race. Instead, J Mac lands on the other son of Mehmas in this race, **20 (18) Underwriter**, trained by the likeable young trainer, Archie Watson. Watson has three runners in this race. This is his best. Watson has the reputation of being handy with 2 yr olds. It behoves to keep this horse on your ticket. And it follows that **12 (19) Postmodern** who will be ridden by James Doyle, Wathnam's retained rider must therefore also be in all tickets.

This leaves two horses for the shortlist, **11 (15) Military Code** for Godolphin's Appleby and Buick, unbeaten in two races over 5 furlongs with a doubt he can get 6, but with Buick a perfect draw you must include and **2 (20) Andab** for Al Sheqab, who pushed the aforementioned Albert Einstein hard on his debut. That is the form line I am nailing to the masthead, despite the horse not running his race when I tipped him on these pages last month. I will be using all seven of these horses in a Trifecta, with win bets on both Andab and Ballistic Missile as the value. A place bet on Tricky Tel, if he remains a 40/1. If he drifts markedly, then leave it alone.

R3 10:40 am King Charles III Stakes 5F

I am taking on the Australian Fav here. Astoora surprised sleeping Australians winning last year. A nominally Gr3 battler found the right race last exposing the limitations of the local Sprinters. The horse retires at the end of this Summer and the horse reaches for blinkers and goes into this without a prep., I am swerving. I am also reluctantly passing on the 2nd Fav Believing who was purchased by Coolmore in the Spring and is now in foal to Frankel - there is often a yard to be gained from a mare racing in foal.

My money will be on **6 (7) Night Raider**. The horse is finally cutting back to 5 furlongs a year at 6 and 7 furlongs. The horse always breaks likes a scolded cat and has blazing early speed. He has had a prep. and will take something special to catch him. Another clue: He was purchased by Wathnam last month after 3rd place finish in the Gr2 Duke of York Stakes at York over 6 furlongs. He was leading into the final furlong, weakening in the half furlong.

The confident value play would be **8 (5) Rumstar** currently 33/1 who has won over 5 at Ascot before. Put a line through the horse's last race at Haydock. The horse was going great until the final furlong. Horses sometimes get a sight of feeding stables at Haydock and maybe that's why he markedly slowed up. I also couldn't put you off **3 (6) Jasour** even though the Cox stable is in poor form. He was 3rd in the Commonwealth Cup here last year.

The bomb insurance horse **18 (13) No Half Measures** 66/1. I tipped him up here last month, but he was beaten up by Rumstar with the trainer saying he preferred a slower surface. That's probably true, but Newmarket has undulations that maybe the horse didn't like. He is a massive price because punters here think he needs soft in the description. Hector Crouch is an unheralded jockey who deserves more recognition. I will be having a small win bet on him too.

R4 11:20 am St James Palace 1 Mile

The emphatic winner of the Irish 2,000 Guineas, 1 (5) Field of Gold torches the field. 5 (6) Rashabar 22/1 is now race fit and is a great place play or one to include in an exotic behind Field of Gold, as the most of the money will gravitate to Coolmore's Henri Matisee and Goldophin's Ruling Court.

R5 12:00 Noon Ascot Stakes 2 Miles 4 Furlongs

Hardest race of the day for me. Most of the money will come for the King's horse Reaching High trained by Irish Champion Jumps trainer, Willie Mullins and Tony "The Lizard" Bloom's Cheltenham 100/1 Triumph Hurdle winner, Poniros, with Buick getting the call. There is no doubt they are both capable, but it's not clear either are good enough. Moreover, there is just no value with them. So take them on. The next four in the market do offer value, with **7 (18) East India Dock** 6/1 being the best though the wide draw complicates his mission, next **8 (4) Manxman** 8/1 who retains the capable jumps jockey Sean Bowen. Manxman was super unlucky not to win the famous 18 furlong Cesarewitch last year. And finally **19 (7) Mr Hampstead** 12/1 who went down by a neck to Manxman last time. Mr Hampstead's dam is Daddys Lil Darling, so this horse may have a kick when it matters.

For bomb insurance, I like the **3 (5) Divine Comedy** who is close to top weight, so this will be difficult going the distance, but his short head 2nd to Al Qareem is April is about the best form line in the race. Al Qareem destroyed Willie Mullins' Absurde by 4 lengths last weekend and is pencilled in for the Irish Leger in September.

An additional bomb insurance policy can found with the **6 (14) Feigning Madness** 40/1 for Ralph Beckett and Hector Crouch. This is a horse who had interesting Group entries last year, though did take them up and has only raced 6 times. He is third up this season and got stamina into his legs when finishing 5 length 4th of 4th in a Gr3 at Ascot in April. I will have a small win bet on Feigning Madness and include this horse in a Trifecta, along with Divine Comedy.

R6 12:34 pm Wolferton Stakes 1M 2F

I love that there is a warm Shadwell Fav Enfjaar and that Ryan Moore rocks up on 2nd Fav Sons and Lovers for Joseph O'Brien. I like it even more that Wathnam

have the next three in the market, all either Ascot winners and with form lines that include the lines of Los Angeles, Rebel's Romance and Rosallion with the James Doyle, James McDonald and Colin Keane all booked because that distracts and will keep money away from my **PLAY OF THE DAY 7 (8) Ecureuil Secret 12/1**. I touted this horse to Howard 11 days ago in the undercard of the Epsom Oaks. I should have suggested Howard send out an emergency tip, but it was all very last minute. He was 28/1 and won by 4 lengths, hands and heels. How did I get the horse? Why do I like the horse? Again, I go back to entries. A key part of handicapping for me is not so much their past performances, but rather their entries and where they were intended, even if they didn't make it. Ecureuil Secret had top Group 1 entries at Longchamp and Baden Baden last year. They were thinking big. Instead the horse ran very creditably for places in listed and Gr3 races at the Curragh and Deauville over less than ideal surfaces. It was clear the horse needed a year and good ground. He is now in his prime and gets single figure draw. He was drawn widest of all at Epsom last time, used up a lot of gas to get across and still won hands and heels, going away. Bet this with both fists!

R7 13:10 EST Copper Horse Handicap

I took 5/1 on **7 (7) French Master** earlier in the week. He has been recently acquired by Wathnam (you should see the pattern by now, which I flagged this here three years ago). The horse has been well touted and looks a winner. But the Qataris are not the only Gulfies buying horses. Watch out for **12 (9) Caballo De Mar** who was 2nd to East India Dock in the historic Chester Cup and won subsequently at Haydock before being purchased by Bahraini connections a few weeks ago. I wouldn't put you off a little win bet on Caballo De Mar, though maybe the bet now is to box French Master and Caballo De Mar in the first two places of a Trifecta and add four or five horse below for 3rd. The best I can for below in a Tri would be **6. Real Dream, 8. Barnso, 9. Charlus, 14. Champagne Prince and 16. Aeronautic**.

This **Royal Ascot is a World Pool event**, but they still haven't figure out how to put together a commingled Pick 4, 5 or 6. The best they have is a late Pick 3, with UK, Australia, South African and Hong Kong money in it for sure. I am not sure which of the USA ADW's are a part of that pool.

My World Pool late Pick 3 plays or Treble plays are beginning R5 12:00 Noon EST are

3, 6, 7, 8, 19 / 7 / 7, 9, 12

Good Luck!