

# Royal Ascot | Wednesday, June 18, 2025

## **Race 1: 9:30 A.M. - Queen Mary Stakes (Fillies' Group 2)**

Though she arrives a maiden TRUE LOVE probably sets the standard on form on her debut runner up effort at Listed level behind a classy rival who has followed up in Group company. She was turned over at short odds next time but that was by a useful stablemate and could get off the mark at Group level here. There are plenty of impressive debut winners in the field who will pose challenges including Spicy Marg who registered the top speed figure in the contest when quickening clear of a small field cosily at HQ. America has a decent record in this contest winning 5 of the last 16 renewals and the unbeaten Lennilu holds solid claims for them. She produced the top rating when an impressive winner on firm ground last time so should go close in favourable conditions if seeing out the trip at a stiffer venue. Of those that contested the Marygate it is Love Olivia who could reverse form with her re-opposing rivals and fare best. She went too fast when placed that day but showed she had plenty of speed so is dangerous if getting a break on the field on quick ground here.

### **Selections:**

1. TRUE LOVE (23)
2. SPICY MARG (21)
3. LENNILU (11)

## **Race 2: 10:05 — Queen's Vase (Group 2)**

This could go to French raider ASMARANI if he is able to handle the quicker surface here. This owner/trainer combination enjoyed success at this meeting last year and he shaped like a stayer when runner up in the Prix Hocquart last time with that form franked by the winner in the Prix Du Lys next time. The unbeaten Carmers looks the biggest danger as though the form of his Yeats Stakes win has had knocks he did it impressively and suggested that he would have the stamina for this slightly longer distance. Devil's Advocate is another whose form has had knocks but he did do well to finish as close as he did in the Dante having gone off far too quickly hinting that there could be more to come over staying trips. He could complete the places ahead of Shackleton who looks the pick of the pair from last year's winning yard but does appear to have had his limitations exposed.

### **Selections**

1. ASMARANI (2)

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2. CARMERS (3)
3. DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (4)

### **Race 3: 10:40 - Duke Of Cambridge Stakes (Fillies' And Mares' Group 2) (Rnd)**

Tough to oppose the progressive CINDERELLA'S DREAM here despite her penalty. She outclassed her rivals in the Dahlia Stakes on her return and it's hard to see 2024 Guineas winner Elmalka reversing that 4 1/2l deficit despite these better terms along with her improved fitness. The selection was a Grade 1 winner in the US last year and has shown all of her best form on fast ground so will relish conditions. Last year's winner Running Lion is feared most back down in trip in first time cheekpieces though she is unlikely to get an easy lead this time with 2024 Irish 1000 Guineas winner Fallen Angel in the line up. That rival looked in need of the run in a strong Lockinge last time and is open to a bit more improvement also in first time cheekpieces.

#### **Selections**

1. CINDERELLA'S DREAM (1)
2. RUNNING LION (6)
3. ELMALKA (3)

### **Race 4: 11:20. - Prince Of Wales's Stakes (Group 1)**

A good renewal where plenty re-oppose from the Champion Stakes over C&D. Anmaat was successful that day under a well timed ride and he proved he retained his ability when runner up to Los Angeles in the Tattersalls Gold Cup on his return. He arguably travelled best that day before the Irish Derby winner's fitness edge told late and that form could be reversed here. However the pair could both be vulnerable to SEE THE FIRE who finished midfield here in the autumn showpieces but met plenty of trouble that day and she's taken her form to a new level this year with an emphatic 12l romp in the Middleton. She is yet to prove quite as effective away from York but looks worth another chance in favourable fast conditions. The progressive lightly raced pair Map Of Stars and Ombudsman are also respected. The former's runner up effort in the Prix Ganay has been franked in the Prix D'Ispahan but he has work to do to reverse form with the latter from last year's Prix du Prince d'Orange.

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## Selections

1. SEE THE FIRE (9)
2. ANMAAT (1)
3. LOS ANGELES (5)

## Race 5: 12:00 PM - Royal Hunt Cup (Heritage Handicap) (Str)

An open renewal as ever with the unexposed pair at the top of the market holding solid claims. My Cloud did well to catch one who got first run last time to complete a hat trick and that rival has franked the form so he should hold every chance off this revised mark. THE LIFFEY appeals more though having caught the eye on his reappearance meeting trouble in the Owenstown Stud Stakes. Both that run and his debut effort have been franked multiple times at Group level so he could prove leniently treated off an opening mark of 98. The step back up in distance, the booking of Moore and the addition of cheekpieces all signal that further improvement is likely. Hi Royal returned to form when runner up in the Thirsk Hunt Cup last time and is entitled to come on for that run. He's been raised 2lb to a mark of 104 but in 2023 was recording ratings as high as 117 when placing in the Guineas and it may just be that he's back close to his peak. If that's the case he could prove good each way value along with Silawi who justified strong support when proving his ability on fast ground last time. He remains well treated on his French Group form and if coping with the drop in trip should remain competitive. The consistent Qirat is also respected given his good record here though he holds no secrets from the handicapper.

## Selections

1. THE LIFFEY (14)
2. HI ROYAL (2)
3. QIRAT (5)

## Race 6: 12:35 PM - Kensington Palace Stakes (Fillies' And Mares' Handicap) (Str)

An open race where the classy types at the head of the weights may be the safest options. Rainbows Edge overcame trouble when beating Arisaig last time over C&D and is open to plenty of further progress in handicaps. She is strongly respected but it is the more experienced JULIA AUGUSTA who appeals most. She returned to form when placed behind

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an in form stablemate last time and is entitled to come on for that first run since the autumn. She has been highly tried throughout her career running well multiple times here in Group company including in a strong Valiant Stakes last year which has been franked several times at Group level since. The return to fast ground will be in her favour and she can account for the unexposed Arolla who placed behind a useful sort at Listed level last time. That rival is entitled to come on for that outing and looks well treated back in a handicap over her optimum trip so will be a huge danger if handling the quicker surface. Sky Safari has a good strike rate in her short career and is also feared though she will need to settle better than she did on her turf return.

### **Selections**

1. JULIA AUGUSTA (5)
2. AROLLA (3)
3. SKY SAFARI (18)

### **Race 7: 1:10 PM - Windsor Castle Stakes (Listed)**

A clear standard is set by ROGUE LEGEND who is 2-3 in his short career and was well fancied for the Coventry earlier in the week before connections opted here. He was an expensive purchase following an impressive pair of victories in Ireland and if handling the quicker ground here will be tough to beat. Utmost Respect was an unlucky loser on debut on fast ground in a strong race and could prove the biggest danger if building on that while Old Is Gold also looks a huge threat. He overcame a wide trip when taking a good contest last time and the form of his C&D debut effort is working out well. Kansas may be a maiden but he has showed decent form in Ireland behind stablemates and may do best of the O'Brien pair.

### **Selections**

1. ROGUE LEGEND (17)
2. UTMOST RESPECT (22)
3. OLD IS GOLD (16)