

COMMENT & SELECTIONS - ASCOT

RACE 1: NO BETTING

RACE 2: QUEEN'S VASE (GROUP 2) (CLASS 1) (3YO ONLY) (FROM ASCOT RACE 2)

Jalmoud Norway Western Australia

Norway was not disgraced when finishing eighth in the Derby at the beginning of the month, especially as he was up there forcing the pace throughout. The step up in trip should suit this stoutly-bred son of Galileo and he has to be given the utmost respect today. That said, the preference is for JALMOUD, who remains unexposed and marathon trips looked sure to suit when he got up narrowly in a French Listed race over 1m4f last month. That form was boosted when the second and third filled the same positions in a Group 2 at the weekend and the ground should not be a problem for Charlie Appleby's colt. Western Australia will have to run to a higher level than when winning a Navan Listed race last month but he remains unexposed over this kind of trip, while Nate The Great could go well if seeing out the trip.

NO. HORSE NAME

1 ALMOST MIDNIGHT Successful twice at 1m 4f on good ground and on the all-weather. A winner at 6-1 at Thirsk over 1m 4f (good) on his latest outing last month, beating Selino by 1 1/4l. Has also won at Kempton this season.

2 BARBADOS A winner at 1m 2f on good to firm ground. Beaten 3/4l by Rakan when second of 3 at 7-4 on his latest outing at Leopardstown over 1m 4f (good) earlier this month.

3 DASHING WILLOUGHBY A winner at 1m 1f on the all-weather. Third of 7 behind Sir Dragonet beaten 9l at 11-2 on his latest outing in the Group 3 MBNA Chester Vase Stakes at Chester over 1m 4f (good to soft) last month.

4 EMINENT AUTHORITY A winner at 1m 3f on good ground. Last of 3 behind Rakan beaten 1 1/2l at 6-1 on his latest outing at Leopardstown over 1m 4f (good) earlier this month.

5 HARPO MARX Won on his latest outing when 8-13fav at Tipperary over 1m 4f (soft) earlier this month, beating Halimi by 2 1/4l.

6 JALMOUD Successful at 1m 2f and 1m 4f on good to firm and good to soft ground. A winner at Longchamp over 1m 4f (good to soft) last month, beating Soft Light by a head. Has also won at Newmarket this season.

7 MOONLIGHT SPIRIT He has won three times from 1m 2f to 1m 4f on good to firm ground and on the all-weather. Third of 5 behind Quest The Moon beaten 4l on his latest outing in the Group 3 Prix Du Lys at Longchamp over 1m 4f last month. Has won at Leicester and Lingfield this season.

8 NATE THE GREAT Successful at 6f and 1m 1f on good to firm and good ground. Third of 10 behind Anthony Van Dyck beaten 4l at 16-1 on his latest outing at Lingfield over 1m 4f (soft) last month.

9 NAYEF ROAD He has won three times from 7f to 1m 2f on good to firm and good ground. Finished 6l behind Le Don De Vie when fifth of 9 at 4-1 on his latest outing at Epsom over 1m 2f (good) earlier this month.

10 NORWAY Successful at 1m and 1m 2f on good to firm and good ground. Beaten 7l behind Anthony Van Dyck at 33-1 when eighth of 13 on his latest outing in the Group 1 Investec Derby Stakes at Epsom over 1m 4f (good to firm) earlier this month.

11 PYTHON A winner at 1m on good to firm ground. Beaten 1 1/2l by Western Australia when second of 5 at 6-1 on his latest outing at Navan over 1m 5f (good to firm) last month.

12 THEMEXWECAN Successful twice at 1m 2f on good to firm ground and on the all-weather. Beaten a head by Durston when second of 6 at 9-2 on his latest outing at Doncaster over 1m 6f (good to firm) earlier this month.

13 WESTERN AUSTRALIA Successful at 7f and 1m 5f on good to firm ground. A winner at 2-1 at Navan over 1m 5f (good to firm) on his latest outing last month, beating Python by 1 1/2l.

RACE 3: PRINCE OF WALES'S STAKES (GROUP 1) (CLASS 1) (4YO PLUS) (FROM ASCOT RACE 3)

Magical

Crystal Ocean

Sea of Class

Sir Michael Stoute won this last year with Poet's Word and comes into this with another star contender in the shape of Crystal Ocean, who finished second to Cracksman in the Champion Stakes here last October and remains unbeaten in two starts so far this season. Prix De L'Arc De Triomphe second Sea of Class makes her seasonal reappearance for William Haggas and a big run from her would be no surprise, while Waldgeist put in a career-best performance when landing the Prix Ganay at Longchamp in April and has had this as his target ever since. Marginal preference, though, is for Aidan O'Brien's MAGICAL, who is one of three fillies' in the race receiving a 3lb pull in the weights. Second behind Enable in the Breeders' Cup Turf, she remains unbeaten in three starts this season and looks hard to beat over her optimum trip of 10 furlongs.

NO. HORSE NAME

1 CRYSTAL OCEAN Winner of seven races from 1m 2f to 1m 4f on ground varying from good to firm to soft. Won on his latest outing when 2-9fav in the Group 3 Al Rayyan Stakes at Newbury over 1m 4f (good) last month, beating Laraaib by 2l. Has also won at Sandown this season.

2 DESERT ENCOUNTER Has won eight races from 1m 3f to 1m 6f on ground varying from good to firm to soft. Beaten 17l behind Old Persian at 25-1 when last of 8 on his latest outing in the Group 1 Longines Dubai Sheema Classic - Turf at Meydan over 1m 4f (good) in March.

3 HUNTING HORN Successful twice at 1m 2f on good to firm and soft - heavy ground. Finished 1l behind Channel Maker when fourth of 9 at 12-1 on his latest outing in the Group 1 Man O War Stakes at Belmont Park over 1m 3f (good) last month.

4 WALDGEIST Winner of seven races from 1m to 1m 4f on ground varying from good to firm to good to soft. A winner in the Group 1 Prix Ganay Group 1 Stakes at Longchamp over 1m 2f (good) in April, beating Study Of Man by 4 1/2l.

5 ZABEEL PRINCE Winner of six races from 1m to 1m 1f on ground varying from good to firm to soft. A winner in the Group 1 Prix D'Ispahan at Longchamp over 1m 1f last month, beating Study Of Man by 3/4l. Has also won at Newmarket this season.

6 DEIRDRE Winner of seven races from 1m 1f to 1m 2f on ground varying from firm to good to soft. Finished 4l behind Win Bright when sixth of 13 on her latest outing in the Group 1 The Fwd Qeii Cup at Sha Tin over 1m 2f (good) in April.

7 MAGICAL Winner of seven races from 7f to 1m 4f on ground varying from good to firm to soft. Won on her latest outing when 2-7fav in the Group 1 Tattersalls Gold Cup at Curragh over 1m 2f (good to firm) last month, beating Flag Of Honour by 7l.

8 SEA OF CLASS She has won four times from 1m 2f to 1m 4f on good to firm ground. Beaten a short head by Enable when second of 19 on her latest outing in the Group 1 Qatar Prix De L'Arc De Triomphe at Longchamp over 1m 4f (good to soft) in October last year.

RACE 4: DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE STAKES (FILLIES' GROUP 2) (STR) (CLASS 1) (4YO PLUS) (FROM ASCOT RACE 4)

I Can Fly

Pretty Baby

Agrotera

Rawdaa put in a career best when only a neck behind Lah Ti Dar in the Middleton at York in May, but that came over 1m2f and she had previously been beaten by Agrotera at Kempton. The latter won the Sandringham over C&D at this meeting last year and she has a solid each-way chance this afternoon. That said, the one to beat is I CAN FLY, who has the best form in this race by quite a long way. The daughter of Fastnet Rock was only beaten a neck by Roaring Lion in the QEII here last October and she was not disgraced when finishing sixth in the Lockinge earlier in the season. The four-year-old was given far too much to do when a beaten favourite last time out and she can provide her supporters with some valuable compensation this afternoon. Pretty Baby has to prove that she stays this trip but if she does see it out then it would be no surprise to see her in the mix.

NO. HORSE NAME

1 I CAN FLY She has won four times from 7f to 1m on good to firm and good ground and on the all-weather. Beaten 1 1/2l by Beshayir when second of 7 at 11-8fav on her latest outing in the Group 2 Lanwades Stud Stakes at Curragh over 1m (good to firm) last month.

2 AGROTERA She has won three times at 1m on good to firm ground and on the all-weather. Won on her latest outing when 7-2jt-fav at Kempton over 1m in April, beating Preening by 1l.

3 ANNA NERIUM Winner of five races from 6f to 1m on ground varying from good to firm to soft. A winner at 9-2 in the Group 3 Princess Elizabeth Stakes at Epsom over 1m (good to firm) on her latest outing earlier this month, beating Awesometank by 1 1/4l.

4 BELLA RAGAZZA She has won three times from 7f to 1m on good and good to soft ground. Finished 4 1/2l behind Anna Nerium when fourth of 8 at 7-1 on her latest outing in the Group 3 Princess Elizabeth Stakes at Epsom over 1m (good to firm) earlier this month.

5 DAN'S DREAM Successful at 6f and 7f on good to soft and heavy ground. Beaten a neck by Soffia when second of 8 at 3-1 on her latest outing in the Group 3 TRM - Excellence In Equine Nutrition Ballyogan Stakes at Curragh over 6f (good - yielding) earlier this month.

- 6 DI FEDE She has won four times from 6f to 7f on good and soft ground and on the all-weather. Beaten 10l behind Kaeso at 14-1 when last of 10 on her latest outing at Chester over 1m (good) last month.
- 7 HAND ON HEART Successful twice at 1m on heavy and soft - heavy ground. Beaten 3 1/2l by Flight Risk when second of 9 at 7-2 on her latest outing at Leopardstown over 1m (good) earlier this month.
- 8 INDIAN BLESSING She has won four times from 7f to 1m 1f on good and good to soft ground and on the all-weather. A winner at 6-1 at Musselburgh over 7f (good to soft) on her latest outing earlier this month, beating Wisdom Mind by 1 1/2l.
- 9 MOVE SWIFTLY She has won three times from 7f to 1m 1f on good ground and on the all-weather. Beaten 1 1/4l by Rasima when second of 12 at 4-5fav on her latest outing at Lingfield over 1m in November last year.
- 10 NYALETI She has won four times from 6f to 1m on ground varying from good to firm to good to soft. Well beaten at 6-1 behind Anna Nerium when last of 8 on her latest outing in the Group 3 Princess Elizabeth Stakes at Epsom over 1m (good to firm) earlier this month.
- 11 PREENING Successful twice at 1m on good to firm ground and on the all-weather. Beaten 1l by Agrotera when second of 14 at 10-1 on her latest outing at Kempton over 1m in April.
- 12 PRETTY BABY Winner of five races from 6f to 7f on good to firm and soft ground and on the all-weather. Won on her latest outing when 15-8fav in the Group 3 RaceBets Million Chartwell Fillies' Stakes at Lingfield over 7f (soft) last month, beating Perfection by a head.
- 13 RAWDAA Successful at 1m and 1m 2f on good to firm and good to soft ground. Beaten a neck by Lah Ti Dar when second of 6 at 6-1 on her latest outing in the Group 2 Al Basti Equiworld Dubai Middleton Fillies' Stakes at York over 1m 2f (good to firm) last month.
- 14 RED TEA Winner of seven races from 7f to 1m on ground varying from good to firm to yielding. Third of 7 behind Bashaayir beaten 1 3/4l at 9-2 on her latest outing in the Group 2 Lanwades Stud Stakes at Curragh over 1m (good to firm) last month.
- 15 SHENANIGANS She has won four times from 7f to 1m 2f on good to firm and good ground and on the all-weather. Won on her latest outing when 11-10fav at Ayr over 1m 2f (good to firm) last month, beating Exhort by 1 3/4l.
- 16 THREADING She has won three times from 6f to 1m on ground varying from good to firm to soft. Third of 6 behind Gabr beaten 1 1/2l at 11-4 on her latest outing at Goodwood over 1m 2f (good to soft) in September last year.

17 VERACIOUS Successful at 7f and 1m on good ground. Third of 8 behind Anna Nerium beaten 1 1/2l at 2-1fav on her latest outing in the Group 3 Princess Elizabeth Stakes at Epsom over 1m (good to firm) earlier this month.