

COMMENTS & SELECTIONS FOR ROYAL ASCOT

RACE 1: NORFOLK STAKES (GROUP 2)

Sunday Sovereign Expressionist Maven

Wesley Ward has won this race twice in the last six years and Maven will be popular in the betting after scoring at Aqueduct on debut in April, while Mount Fuji made a winning start to his career at Cork last month despite doing plenty wrong in the early stages. Expressionist scored over course and distance on debut after costing connections 300,000gns at the Craven breeze-up sales, but this can go the way of King Power Racing's SUNDAY SOVEREIGN. Impressive on debut when fourth in a hot Naas contest before beating the likes of Arizona at the Curragh a few weeks later, the two-year-old didn't mind soft ground when scoring on his third career start at Tipperary 16 days ago and can put his experience to good use here with no concerns over the trip or ground.

NO. HORSE NAME

- 1 A'ALI Foaled 23 Mar. Half-brother to Slowmo, won at 5f and 6f. Beaten a neck by Spartan Fighter when second of 7 at 5-4fav on his racecourse debut at Ripon over 5f (good to soft) earlier this month.
- 2 AIR FORCE JET Foaled 25 Feb. Dam won three times at 5f. Won on his latest outing when 4-11fav at Navan over 5f (good - yielding) earlier this month, beating Southern Hills by a neck.
- 3 COOL SPHERE Foaled 9 Mar. Dam won at 5f and 6f. Beaten 3/4l by Majestic Sands when second of 8 at 9-2 on his racecourse debut at Leicester over 5f (good) last month.
- 4 DUBAI STATION Foaled 19 Feb. Dam a lightly raced maiden. Won on his latest outing when 11-8fav at Haydock over 5f (soft) earlier this month, beating Partridge by 1l.
- 5 EXPRESSIONIST Foaled 30 Apr. Dam won twice at 1m 4f. Won on his latest outing when 5-2fav over this course and distance (good to soft) last month, beating Clan Royale by 3/4l.
- 6 FIREPOWER Foaled 12 Mar. Half-brother to Jackfish, won twice at 7f. A winner at 5f on good to firm ground. Finished 3l behind Temple Of Heaven when sixth of 8 at 7-1 on his latest outing at Newbury over 6f (good) last month.
- 7 KING NEPTUNE Foaled 25 Mar. A winner at 5f on the all-weather. Beaten 2 1/2l by Siskin when second of 5 at 3-1 on his latest outing at Curragh over 6f (good to firm) last month.
- 8 MAVEN Foaled 24 May. Dam won four times between 6f and 1m. Won on his latest outing when 2-5fav at Aqueduct over 4f in April, beating Lebda by 1/2l. He is wearing blinkers and a tongue-tie for the first time.

- 9 MISTY GREY Foaled 5 Mar. A winner at 6f on good ground. Third of 6 behind Pinatubo beaten 2 1/4l at 11-4 on his latest outing at Epsom over 6f (good) last month.
- 10 MOUNT FUJI Foaled 4 Mar. Half-brother to Sudirman, won three times at 6f including a Group 1 race. A winner at 5-1 at Cork over 5f (good to firm) on his latest outing last month, beating Invincible Diva by 1/2l.
- 11 REAL APPEAL Foaled 24 Mar. He has won three times from 5f to 6f on good and good to soft ground. A winner at Maisons-Laffitte over 5f (good) last month, beating Jolie by a head. He is wearing blinkers for the first time.
- 12 STRIVE FOR GLORY Foaled 24 Jan. Dam won six times between 5f and 1m. A winner at 5f on the all-weather. Third of 6 behind Flippa The Strippa beaten 1 1/4l at 33-1 on his latest outing at Sandown over 5f (good) last month.
- 13 SUNDAY SOVEREIGN Foaled 23 Apr. Successful at 5f and 6f on soft and yielding ground. Won on his latest outing when 2-5fav at Tipperary over 5f (soft) earlier this month, beating Lorelei Rock by 7l.
- 14 VENTURA REBEL Foaled 22 Jan. Half-brother to Suitcase 'n' Taxi, won four times at 5f and 6f. Successful twice at 5f on good to firm ground. A winner at 20-1 over this course and distance (good to firm) on his latest outing last month, beating Lady Pauline by 1l. Has also won at Thirsk this season.
- 15 EMTEN Foaled 22 Feb. Half-sister to Something Lucky, won eight times at 5f and 6f. A winner at 5-1 at Windsor over 5f (good) on her latest outing in April, beating Top Buck by 1 1/4l.

RACE 2: HAMPTON COURT STAKES (GROUP 3)

Sangarius

Cape Of Good Hope

Fox Chairman

Cape Of Good Hope bids to follow in the hoofprints of his full brothers, Highland Reel and Idaho, in winning at the Royal meeting and he arrives on the back of a solid fourth in the Prix du Jockey Club at Chantilly. Fox Chairman's inexperience got the better of him at Chester but he remains with significant potential and the return to a more conventional track is definitely in his favour. Andrew Balding's colt, along with London Gold Cup winner Headman, Heron Stakes runner-up Roseman and the third from that contest, SANGARIUS, represent a strong team for the sire Kingman and it is the latter-named who gets the vote. Sir Michael Stoute has won this contest twice in the last 10 years, most recently with Cannock Chase (2014), and his comeback at Sandown was a solid performance when shaping as though he would benefit from the outing. The step up to 1m2f and the booking of Frankie Dettori could both eke out further improvement. Others to consider include King Ottokar, who travelled powerfully before not staying in the Chester Vase over an extended 1m4f, and Kick On, who will appreciate softer underfoot conditions to what he encountered in France earlier in the month.

NO. HORSE NAME

1 ARTHUR KITT Successful at 6f and 7f on good to firm and good ground. Beaten a neck by Getchagetcha when second of 5 at 6-4fav on his latest outing at Leicester over 1m 4f (good to soft) earlier this month.

2 BUCKHURST A winner at 1m on soft ground. Beaten 1/2l by Constantinople when second of 7 at 6-1 on his latest outing in the Group 3 Kerrygold Gallinule Stakes at Curragh over 1m 2f (good to firm) last month.

3 CAPE OF GOOD HOPE Successful at 7f and 1m 2f on good to firm and good ground. Finished 5l behind Sottsass when fourth of 15 on his latest outing in the Group 1 Qipco Prix Du Jockey Club at Chantilly over 1m 2f (good) earlier this month.

4 CAP FRANCAIS Successful twice at 1m on good to firm and good to soft ground. Finished 5l behind Anthony Van Dyck when fourth of 10 at 9-4 on his latest outing at Lingfield over 1m 4f (soft) last month.

5 EIGHTSOME REEL Successful at 1m 1f and 1m 2f on good ground and on the all-weather. Beaten 4l by Raise You when second of 6 at 8-1 on his latest outing at Newmarket over 1m 2f (good) last month.

6 FOX CHAIRMAN A winner at 1m on good to soft ground. Third of 6 behind Circus Maximus beaten 3 1/2l at 2-1 on his latest outing at Chester over 1m 2f (good to soft) last month.

7 GETCHAGETCHAGETCHA Successful at 5f and 1m 4f on good to soft ground. A winner at 4-1 at Leicester over 1m 4f (good to soft) on his latest outing earlier this month, beating Arthur Kitt by a neck.

- 8 GLOBAL SPECTRUM Successful twice at 7f on the all-weather. Finished 3l behind Fox Champion when fifth of 11 at 25-1 on his latest outing in the Group 2 34. Mehl-Mulhens-Rennen - German 2000 Guineas Group 2 at Cologne over 1m last month.
- 9 GREAT SCOT He has won three times from 7f to 1m on ground varying from good to firm to heavy. Third of 11 behind Fox Champion beaten 1/2l at 17-10fav on his latest outing in the Group 2 34. Mehl-Mulhens-Rennen - German 2000 Guineas Group 2 at Cologne over 1m last month.
- 10 HEADMAN Successful at 1m and 1m 2f on good ground and on the all-weather. A winner at 12-1 at Newbury over 1m 2f (good) on his latest outing last month, beating Sinjaari by a short head.
- 11 KICK ON Successful at 1m and 1m 1f on good to firm and good ground. Beaten 15l behind Sottsass when 9th of 15 on his latest outing in the Group 1 Qipco Prix Du Jockey Club at Chantilly over 1m 2f (good) earlier this month.
- 12 KING OTTOKAR Successful at 7f and 1m 2f on soft ground. Finished 13l behind Sir Dragonet when fourth of 7 at 11-4jt-fav on his latest outing in the Group 3 MBNA Chester Vase Stakes at Chester over 1m 4f (good to soft) last month.
- 13 OLD GLORY A winner at 7f on good ground. Third of 6 behind Guaranteed beaten 3/4l at 15-8jt-fav on his latest outing at Curragh over 1m 2f (good - yielding) earlier this month.
- 14 ROSEMAN A winner at 1m on good to soft ground. Beaten 2 1/2l by King Of Comedy when second of 8 at 8-1 on his latest outing at Sandown over 1m (good) last month.
- 15 SANGARIUS Successful twice at 7f on good to firm and good to soft ground. Third of 8 behind King Of Comedy beaten 4l at 11-2 on his latest outing at Sandown over 1m (good) last month.

RACE 3: RIBBLESDALE STAKES (FILLIES' GROUP 2)

Queen Power Fleeting Fanny Logan

QUEEN POWER was denied by a short-head over 1m here on her seasonal bow but she was making up plenty of ground late on and it was no surprise to see her improve for the step up to 1m2f when landing a Listed contest at Newbury last time (with Star Catcher back in third third). Sir Michael Stoute's charge was again putting in her best work in the finish last time and could progress again now granted this stiffer test. Oaks third Fleeting could be tough to keep out of the frame for a trainer who has won three of the last five runnings of this contest, while the pick of the John Gosden quartet may be Fanny Logan, who finished an outpaced third in the Cheshire Oaks and could appreciate this extra yardage.

NO. HORSE NAME

- 1 ALTAIR Successful at 7f and 1m 1f on good to firm ground and on the all-weather. Won on her latest outing when 9-10fav at Gowran Park over 1m 1f (good to firm) last month, beating Fancy Feat by a neck. She is wearing cheekpieces for the first time.
- 2 FANNY LOGAN A winner at 1m 2f on good ground. Third of 11 behind Mehdaayih beaten 6l at 10-3 on her latest outing at Chester over 1m 3f (good to soft) last month.
- 3 FLEETING Successful at 7f and 1m on good to firm and good ground. Third of 14 behind Anapurna beaten 1 1/2l at 25-1 on her latest outing in the Group 1 Investec Oaks at Epsom over 1m 4f (good) last month.
- 4 FRANKELLINA A winner at 1m on good to firm ground. Finished 5l behind Anapurna when sixth of 14 at 12-1 on her latest outing in the Group 1 Investec Oaks at Epsom over 1m 4f (good) last month.
- 5 FRESNEL A winner at 1m on the all-weather. Finished 1 3/4l behind Nausha when fourth of 10 at 16-1 on her latest outing in the Group 3 Musidora Stakes at York over 1m 2f (good to firm) last month.
- 6 LOVE SO DEEP Successful twice at 1m 2f on good to firm ground. Third of 9 behind Aloe Vera beaten 3 1/2l at 20-1 on her latest outing at Goodwood over 1m 2f (good) last month. Has won at Yarmouth and Nottingham this season.
- 7 PEACH TREE Successful at 7f and 1m on good to firm and yielding ground. Beaten 1l by Who's Steph when second of 7 at 3-1 on her latest outing in the Group 3 Munster Oaks Stakes at Cork over 1m 4f (good - yielding) earlier this month.
- 8 QUEEN POWER Successful at 7f and 1m 2f on good to firm and good ground. Won on her latest outing when 13-8fav at Newbury over 1m 2f (good) last month, beating Lavender's Blue by a neck.

9 SHAMBOLIC Successful at 7f and 1m on good to firm and good to soft ground. Beaten 3l by Aloe Vera when second of 9 at 7-4fav on her latest outing at Goodwood over 1m 2f (good) last month.

10 SPARKLE ROLL Successful at 1m and 1m 2f on good to firm and good to soft ground. Beaten 6l behind Nausha at 7-4fav when seventh of 10 on her latest outing in the Group 3 Musidora Stakes at York over 1m 2f (good to firm) last month.

11 STAR CATCHER A winner at 1m 2f on soft ground. Third of 8 behind Queen Power beaten 1/2l at 6-1 on her latest outing at Newbury over 1m 2f (good) last month.

RACE 4: GOLD CUP (GROUP 1)

Stradivarius Cross Counter Flag Of Honour

STRADIVARIUS has swept all before him in the staying division and returns to defend his crown from 12 months ago. John Gosden's star performer made a satisfactory beginning to his season in the Yorkshire Cup, beating Southern France by three quarters of a length, and is expected to improve plenty from that outing. Melbourne Cup hero Cross Counter won on Dubai World Cup night at Meydan and boasts obvious claims if seeing out the extra half mile, while similar comments apply to last year's Derby runner-up Dee Ex Bee, who has won both his starts over 2m this season. Flag Of Honour has chased home Magical on all three outings this season over 1m2f and the marked step up in distance could see him improve a fair amount, while 2017 St Leger winner Capri could bounce back to form after two average displays so far this campaign.

NO. HORSE NAME

1 CALLED TO THE BAR Winner of six races from 1m 2f to 1m 7f on good and good to soft ground. A winner in the Group 2 Prix Vtesse Vigier at Longchamp over 1m 7f last month, beating Way To Paris by 3l.

2 CAPRI Winner of six races from 7f to 1m 6f on ground varying from good to soft - heavy. Third of 6 behind Twilight Payment beaten 4 1/2l at 9-10fav on his latest outing at Leopardstown over 1m 6f (good - yielding) last month.

3 MAGIC CIRCLE Has won eight races from 1m 4f to 2m 3f on ground varying from good to soft. Third of 6 behind Morando beaten 9l at 6-1 on his latest outing in the Group 3 Boodles Diamond Ormonde Stakes at Chester over 1m 5f (soft) last month.

4 STRADIVARIUS Has won ten races from 1m to 2m 4f on ground varying from good to firm to soft and on the all-weather. Won on his latest outing when 4-5fav in the Group 2 Matchbook Yorkshire Cup Stakes at York over 1m 6f (good to firm) last month, beating Southern France by 3/4l.

5 THOMAS HOBSON Winner of six races from 1m 2f to 2m 4f on ground varying from good to firm to soft; has also won four hurdles. Beaten 1 1/2l by Raa Atoll when second of

12 on his latest outing in the Group 2 Comer Group International 48. Oleander Group 2 Stakes at Hoppegarten over 2m (good) last month.

6 CROSS COUNTER Winner of six races from 1m 1f to 2m on ground varying from good to firm to good to soft and on the all-weather. Won on his latest outing when 7-4fav in the Group 2 Dubai Gold Cup - Turf at Meydan over 2m (good) in March, beating Ispolini by 1 1/4l.

7 CYPRESS CREEK Successful at 1m 5f and 2m on good ground. Well beaten at 100-1 behind Defoe when last of 9 on his latest outing in the Group 1 Investec Coronation Cup at Epsom over 1m 4f (good) last month.

8 DEE EX BEE He has won four times from 7f to 2m on ground varying from good to firm to heavy. Won on his latest outing when 4-7fav in the Group 3 Matchbook VIP Henry II Stakes at Sandown over 2m (good) last month, beating Mekong by 1 3/4l. Has also won at Ascot this season.

9 FLAG OF HONOUR Winner of five races from 7f to 1m 6f on ground varying from good to firm to yielding. Beaten 7l by Magical when second of 5 at 4-1 on his latest outing in the Group 1 Tattersalls Gold Cup at Curragh over 1m 2f (good to firm) last month.

10 MASTER OF REALITY He has won three times from 1m 4f to 1m 6f on soft and yielding ground. Finished 5l behind Twilight Payment when fourth of 6 at 8-1 on his latest outing at Leopardstown over 1m 6f (good - yielding) last month.

11 RAYMOND TUSK He has won three times from 1m to 1m 4f on ground varying from good to firm to good to soft. Third of 7 behind Crystal Ocean beaten 5l at 10-1 on his latest outing in the Group 3 Al Rayyan Stakes at Newbury over 1m 4f (good) last month.