

**RACE COMMENT & SELECTION**  
**UNITED KINGDOM RACING THURSDAY 19 JUNE 2025 MEETING**  
**ASCOT**

**RACE 1:        NORFOLK STAKES (GROUP 2) (CLASS 1) (2YO ONLY)**

**AFJAN - CHARLES DARWIN - FIRST LEGION**

Race Preview: Not one of the last 10 favourites managed to win this race, which doesn't bode well for Charles Darwin, who topped many ante post betting lists after building on his Curragh debut to register comfortable wins at Navan and Naas respectively. The son of No Nay Never has the hallmarks of being a class act and cannot be ignored. However, AFJAN posted a very encouraging time when he won over an extended 5f at Chantilly on his racecourse bow and the French-bred son of Mehmas has the potential to do better on a faster surface. First Legion, Naval Light and Comical Point are notable contenders with place claims.

NO.	HORSE NAME	RACE COMMENT
1	AFJAN	Foaled 19 Feb. Half-brother to Faleh, won twice at 5f. A winner at 3-1 at Chantilly over 5f (good to soft) on his latest outing earlier this month, beating Vardif by 1 1/4l.
2	AMEEQ	Foaled 28 Apr. Half-brother to Tell William, won twice at 1m. A winner at 6-1 at Nottingham over 5f (good) on his latest outing earlier this month, beating Chairmanfourtimes by 1 1/4l.
3	CHARLES DARWIN	Foaled 25 Mar. Successful at 5f and 6f on good and soft ground. Won on his latest outing when 1-14fav at Naas over 5f (good) last month, beating Cardiff By The Sea by 3 1/2l.
4	CLEAR FORCE	Foaled 15 Feb. A winner at 5f on good ground. Finished 3 1/2l behind Anthelia when fourth of 7 at 15-8fav on his latest outing at Sandown over 5f (good) last month.
5	COMICAL POINT	Foaled 22 Mar. Half-brother to Hello Zaman, won at 6f. A winner at 17-2 at Salisbury over 5f (good to firm) on his latest outing last month, beating Charlie Boyo by a neck.
6	EXCLAMATION	Foaled 18 Feb. Placed twice in three starts. Beaten 1l by Ali Shuffle when second of 8 at 14-1 on his latest outing at Chester over 5f (good) last month.
7	FIRST LEGION	Foaled 30 Apr. Half-brother to Lady Of Spain, won four times at 1m and 1m 1f. A winner at 6f on good to firm ground. Beaten 1l by Anthelia when second of 7 at 9-4 on his latest outing at Sandown over 5f (good) last month.
8	GRAFT	Foaled 28 Apr. A winner at 8-1 at Chantilly over 5f (good to soft) on his latest outing earlier this month, beating Super Soldier by 1/2l.
9	HEY TRU BLUE	Foaled 9 May. Half-brother to Bin Hayyan, won twice at 6f and 1m. Beaten 1 1/4l by Rock On Thunder when second of 13 at 9-2 on his racecourse debut at Leicester over 6f (good) last month.
10	IRISH FIGHTER	Foaled 18 Feb. Dam unraced. Beaten 3/4l by Bone Marra when second of 9 at 20-1 on his racecourse debut at Wolverhampton over 5f last month.
11	LIL BROTHER	Foaled 24 Feb. Dam unraced. A winner at 6-1 at Nottingham over 5f (good) on his latest outing earlier this month, beating Schrodinger's Cat by 1/2l.
12	LONDON BOY	Foaled 12 Mar. Dam unraced. A winner at 15-8 at Brighton over 5f (good to firm) on his latest outing earlier this month, beating Mission Classified by 1l.

13	NAVAL LIGHT	Foaled 4 Apr. Dam a lightly raced maiden. Beaten 1 1/2l by Old Is Gold when second of 6 at 3-1 on his racecourse debut at Beverley over 5f (good) last month.
14	SANDAL'S SONG	Foaled 17 Feb. Half-brother to Flip Flops, won at 1m. A winner at 15-2 at Gulfstream over 5f (good) on his latest outing last month, beating Squire by 1 1/2l.
15	STAR MATERIAL	Foaled 10 Apr. Won on his latest outing when 9-4fav at Ripon over 5f (good) earlier this month, beating Fortification by 1 1/4l.
16	WISE APPROACH	Foaled 19 Feb. Half-brother to Perfect Power, won six times between 5f and 7f including three Group 1 races. A winner at 5f on good to firm ground. Finished 2l behind First Legion when fourth of 11 at 11-8fav on his latest outing at York over 6f (good to firm) last month.

**RACE 2:      KING GEORGE V STAKES (HERITAGE HANDICAP) (GBBPLUS RACE) (CLASS 2) (3YO ONLY)**

**PROPOSE - SING US A SONG - SERIOUS CONTENDER**

Race Preview: Ralph Beckett has taken two of the last four renewals and he will be pinning his hopes on Sing Us A Song this year. The son of Camelot shed his maiden tag at Goodwood prior to winning on his handicap debut at Sandown and he boasts a leading chance. Serious Contender possesses a similar profile after scoring on his first start in a handicap at Leopardstown in March and the extra distance looks sure to suit, but it may be worth chancing PROPOSE. The son of Frankel made a strong impression when recording his first career success at Curragh on his latest outing and the colt has shaped as if he would relish this extra yardage.

NO.	HORSE NAME	RACE COMMENT
1	MASAI MOON	Successful at 1m and 1m 2f on good ground and on the all-weather. Won on his latest outing when 6-4fav at Nottingham over 1m 2f (good) last month, beating Boatswain by a short head.
2	NAUTICAL FORCE	A winner at 1m 2f on soft ground. Beaten 2l by Arouet when second of 8 at 15-8 on his latest outing at Roscommon over 1m 2f (good) last month.
3	BOATSWAIN	A winner at 1m 2f on the all-weather. Beaten a nose by Aurel when second of 6 at 4-6fav on his latest outing at Leicester over 1m 2f (good to firm) last month.
4	DAIQUIRI BAY	A winner at 1m 2f on good ground. Beaten a neck by Regal Ulixes when second of 6 at evens fav on his latest outing at Doncaster over 1m 2f (good) earlier this month.
5	SERIOUS CONTENDER	Successful at 1m and 1m 2f on good and soft ground. Won on his latest outing when 9-4fav at Leopardstown over 1m 2f (good) in March, beating Light As Air by 1/2l.
6	SING US A SONG	Successful twice at 1m 2f on good and heavy ground. A winner at 4-1 at Sandown over 1m 2f (good) on his latest outing in April, beating Urban Glimpse by 2 1/4l.
7	CHESS DAD	A winner at 1m on the all-weather. Finished 2 3/4l behind Masai Moon when fourth of 5 at 9-4 on his latest outing at Nottingham over 1m 2f (good) last month.
8	MERCHANT	Successful at 1m 1f and 1m 4f on good to firm ground and on the all-weather. Won on his latest outing when 5-2fav at York over 1m 4f (good to firm) last month, beating Rahiebb by 2 1/2l.

9	OMNI MAN	A winner at 6-4 at Roscommon over 1m 2f (good) on his latest outing last month, beating Mocking by 8l.
10	GUNSHIP	Successful at 1m and 1m 2f on the all-weather. Won on his latest outing when 13-8fav at Newcastle over 1m 2f last month, beating War Hawk by 3/4l.
11	PROPOSE	Won on his latest outing when 8-13fav at Curragh over 1m 2f (good) last month, beating Our Friend Mouse by 3 1/2l.
12	LIGHT AS AIR	Placed in three of four starts. Third of 7 behind Sunriseontheboyne beaten 3/4l at 11-10fav on his latest outing at Navan over 1m 2f (good) last month.
13	THE CURSOR	Placed once in three starts. Beaten 9l behind Sea Scout at 15-2 when last of 7 on his latest outing at Epsom over 1m 2f (good) in April.
14	PANTILE WARRIOR	A winner at 1m 2f on the all-weather. Third of 10 behind Many Men beaten 1 3/4l at 11-2 on his latest outing at Doncaster over 1m 6f (good) earlier this month.
15	AMMES	Won on his latest outing when 8-15fav at Chepstow over 1m 4f (good) last month, beating Triple Gee by 2 1/4l.
16	LIGHTENING MANN	Successful at 1m and 1m 2f on good to firm ground and on the all-weather. Beaten a neck by Saddadd when second of 9 at 14-1 on his latest outing at Newbury over 1m 2f (good to firm) last month. Has won at Newmarket and Lingfield this season.
17	MAFTING	Won on his latest outing when 4-7fav at Redcar over 1m 2f (good to firm) last month, beating Burj Zabeel by a neck.
18	GRECIAN LEGACY	A winner at 1m 2f on good ground. Beaten a neck by War Hawk when second of 9 at 9-1 on his latest outing at Epsom over 1m 2f (good to soft) earlier this month.
19	WATERFORD FLOW	Placed in three of five starts. Third of 8 behind Arouet beaten 3 1/2l at 8-1 on his latest outing at Roscommon over 1m 2f (good) last month.
20	MEBLESH	A winner at 1m 2f on good ground. Finished 4l behind War Hawk when sixth of 9 at 11-2 on his latest outing at Epsom over 1m 2f (good to soft) earlier this month.
21	CRIMINAL	Placed once in three starts. Finished 6l behind Nahraan when fourth of 13 at 5-1 on his latest outing at Wolverhampton over 1m 1f last month.
22	NOVELISTA	Placed in three of five starts. Beaten a head by Many Men when second of 10 at 10-1 on his latest outing at Doncaster over 1m 6f (good) earlier this month.

**RACE 3: RIBBLESDALE STAKES (FILLIES' GROUP 2) (CLASS 1) (3YO ONLY)**

**SERENITY PRAYER - LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL - CATALINA DELCARPIO**

Race Preview: The Gosden yard has won four of the last 10 renewals, so Life Is Beautiful merits consideration, while Aidan O'Brien bids to win this for the third time in succession, with the Naas Listed winner Garden Of Eden looking his best chance. Catalina Delcarpio also travels over from Ireland with strong claims, but SERENITY PRAYER could prove the one to side with. The daughter of Dubawi never threatened to catch Whirl when second in the Musidora Stakes at York last month, but the latter has subsequently gone close in the Oaks, and Andrew Balding's progressive filly gets the vote on that form.

NO.	HORSE NAME	RACE COMMENT
1	CASPI STAR	A winner at 1m 4f on good to soft ground. Third of 7 behind Minnie Hauk beaten 2 1/4l at 12-1 on her latest outing at Chester over 1m 3f (good) last month.
2	CATALINA DELCARPIO	A winner at 1m 2f on good ground. Beaten 2 3/4l by Wemightakedlongway when second of 8 at 2-1 on her latest outing in the Group 3 Irish Stallion Farms EBF Salsabil Stakes at Navan over 1m 2f (soft) in April.
3	ECSTATIC	A winner at 7f on good to firm ground. Finished 6l behind Qilin Queen when fifth of 10 at 4-1 on her latest outing at Newbury over 1m 2f (good to firm) last month.
4	GARDEN OF EDEN	Successful at 7f and 1m 2f on good and good - yielding ground. A winner at 6-1 at Naas over 1m 2f (good) on her latest outing last month, beating Jaliyah by 1l.
5	GO GO BOOTS	Successful at 1m and 1m 2f on the all-weather. Beaten 15l behind Minnie Hauk at 33-1 when last of 9 on her latest outing in the Group 1 Bettfred Oaks at Epsom over 1m 4f (good to soft) earlier this month.
6	HOLLYS GRACES	A winner at 7f on the all-weather. Finished 6l behind Garden Of Eden when sixth of 8 at 6-1 on her latest outing at Naas over 1m 2f (good) last month.
7	ISLAND HOPPING	A winner at 1m on good ground. Third of 8 behind Garden Of Eden beaten 1 3/4l at 7-4fav on her latest outing at Naas over 1m 2f (good) last month.
8	LADY VIVIAN	Successful twice at 1m 4f on good ground and on the all-weather. Won on her latest outing when 10-11fav at Chester over 1m 4f (good) last month, beating Way Of Stars by 1l. Has also won at Southwell this season.
9	LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL	A winner at 1m on the all-weather. Beaten 3 1/2l by Falakeyah when second of 7 at 9-1 on her latest outing at Newmarket over 1m 2f (good to firm) last month.
10	SERENITY PRAYER	A winner at 1m 2f on good ground. Beaten 6l by Whirl when second of 6 at 10-3 on her latest outing in the Group 3 Tattersalls Musidora Stakes at York over 1m 2f (good to firm) last month.
11	UNDERSTUDY	Won on her latest outing when 5-4fav at Southwell over 1m 4f last month, beating Coedana by 4 1/2l.

**RACE 4:      GOLD CUP (GROUP 1) (CLASS 1) (4YO PLUS)**

**TRAWLERMAN - ILLINOIS - SWEET WILLIAM**

Race Preview: Following the retirement of dual winner Kyprios, Aidan O'Brien relies on the highly talented Illinois as he bids for a record-breaking 10th winner of this illustrious event. However, top-tier success has been elusive for the son of Galileo, who will be stepping into uncharted territory over this marathon trip. That is not the case with the 2024 runner-up, TRAWLERMAN, who has a major chance of going one better this year. The John and Thady Gosden-trained gelding stays well, is effective on the forecast going and enjoyed an ideal preparation by defeating Coltrane by five lengths in the Henry II at Sandown. His stable companion Sweet William and the unexposed French raider Candelari are also capable of being on the premises.

NO.	HORSE NAME	RACE COMMENT
1	COLTRANE	Has won nine races from 1m 4f to 2m 4f on ground varying from good to firm to good to soft. Beaten 5l by Trawlerman when second of 4 at 7-1 on his latest outing in the Group 3 Star Sports Henry II Stakes at Sandown over 2m (good) last month.
2	DUBAI FUTURE	Has won nine races from 1m 2f to 2m on good to firm and good ground and on the all-weather. Well beaten at 6-1 behind Candelari when last of 9 on his latest outing in the Group 1 Prix Vicomtesse Vigier at ParisLongchamp over 1m 7f (soft) last month.
3	SWEET WILLIAM	Winner of five races from 1m 4f to 2m 2f on ground varying from good to firm to heavy. Third of 5 behind Rebel's Romance beaten 1l at 10-3 on his latest outing in the Group 2 Boodles Yorkshire Cup Stakes at York over 1m 6f (good to firm) last month.
4	TRAWLERMAN	Has won eight races from 1m 2f to 2m on ground varying from good to firm to good to soft and on the all-weather. Won on his latest outing when 4-5fav in the Group 3 Star Sports Henry II Stakes at Sandown over 2m (good) last month, beating Coltrane by 5l.
5	WONDER LEGEND	Winner of five races from 1m 1f to 2m on soft ground and on the all-weather. A winner at 4-1 at Newcastle over 2m on his latest outing in April, beating Tribal Star by 4 1/2l.
6	YASHIN	He has won four times from 1m 2f to 2m on good to firm and good ground. A winner at 11-1 here over 2m (good to firm) on his latest outing in April, beating Coltrane by 1l.
7	CANDELARI	He has won four times from 1m 5f to 1m 7f on soft ground and on the all-weather. A winner at 7-2 in the Group 1 Prix Vicomtesse Vigier at ParisLongchamp over 1m 7f (soft) on his latest outing last month, beating Sevens's Knight by 3 1/2l.
8	ILLINOIS	He has won four times from 1m 1f to 1m 7f on ground varying from good to firm to soft. Won on his latest outing when 6-5fav in the Group 3 Ladbrokes Big-Value You Can Bet On Ormonde Stakes at Chester over 1m 5f (good) last month, beating Al Qareem by 1 1/4l.