

RACE COMMENT & SELECTION  
UNITED KINGDOM RACING WEDNESDAY 16 APRIL 2025 MEETING  
NEWMARKET

RACE 1:        BET365 HANDICAP (CLASS 2) (3YO ONLY)

DOUBLE RUSH - AL MISBAR - THE DRAGON KING

Race Preview: With the Charlie Appleby horses ticking along nicely, it would be folly to ignore the chances of Al Misbar, who is still a maiden after four starts but sports first-time cheekpieces on his second start since being gelded. Race-fitness may be key, though, and that points to the Charlie Hills-trained DOUBLE RUSH, a four-length maiden winner at Wolverhampton after being backed into odds-on favouritism. He can hopefully go on from there, with The Dragon King and Belgrave a couple of others for the shortlist.

NO.	HORSE NAME	RACE COMMENT
1	KING OF BEARS	A winner at 6f on good to firm ground. Finished 4l behind Hallasan when sixth of 20 at 11-1 on his latest outing at Doncaster over 6f (good) in September last year. Having his first run for a new stable today, previously with Paul & Oliver Cole.
2	DEFENCE MINISTER	Successful twice at 6f on good and good to soft ground. Finished 9l behind Shadow Of Light when last of 6 at 7-1 on his latest outing over this course and distance (soft) in September last year.
3	INVICTUS GOLD	Successful twice at 6f on good to soft ground and on the all-weather. Finished 2 3/4l behind Jungle Drums when fifth of 8 at 10-3 on his latest outing at York over 6f (soft) in October last year.
4	LOOM	A winner at 5f on good ground. Beaten 3 1/2l behind Shareholder at 22-1 when seventh of 13 on his latest outing in the Group 2 Norfolk Stakes at Ascot over 5f (good to firm) in June last year.
5	THE DRAGON KING	He has won three times from 5f to 6f on good to firm and good to soft ground. A winner at 5-1 over this course and distance (good to soft) on his latest outing in October last year, beating Brighton Boy by 1l.
6	DARK CLOUD RISING	Successful twice at 6f on good ground. Won on his latest outing when 10-3fav at Pontefract over 6f (good) earlier this month, beating Cayman Tai by 1 3/4l. Carries a 6lb penalty today for that success.
7	MAJESTIC WAVE	A winner at 6f on good - yielding ground. Finished 2 1/2l behind So Darn Hot when fourth of 12 at 14-1 on his latest outing at Lingfield over 6f in February.
8	BOB MALI	He has won three times at 6f on good to soft and heavy ground. Well beaten at 17-2 behind Make You Smile when last of 8 on his latest outing in the Group 3 BetVictor Horris Hill Stakes at Newbury over 7f (heavy) in October last year. Having his first run for a new stable today.
9	AL MISBAR	Placed in three of four starts. Beaten 1 1/4l by Jakarta when second of 11 at 3-1fav on his latest outing here over 7f (soft) in October last year.
10	DILIGENTLY	A winner at 22-1 at York over 6f (good to firm) on his latest outing in August last year, beating Arizona Blaze by a head.
11	BELGRAVE	A winner at 11-8 at Leicester over 6f (heavy) on his latest outing in October last year, beating One More by 4 1/2l.

12	DOUBLE RUSH	Won on his latest outing when 8-11fav at Wolverhampton over 6f last month, beating French Sand by 4l.
13	GALLANT	A winner at 6f on the all-weather. Finished 6l behind Diablo Rojo when fourth of 8 at 9-4 on his latest outing at Lingfield over 6f last month.
14	CAYMAN TAI	A winner at 5f on good to soft ground. Beaten 1 3/4l by Dark Cloud Rising when second of 9 at 5-1 on his latest outing at Pontefract over 6f (good) earlier this month.

**RACE 2:     BET365 WOOD DITTON MAIDEN STAKES (GBB RACE) (CLASS 2) (3YO ONLY)**

**ALTAREQ - SPY KINGDOM - MUHAAJIM**

Race Preview: A large field of unraced three-year-olds and a race that often throws up a decent sort or two. Invariably won by a top Newmarket stable, the Gosdens have won two of the last four runnings and have chances again this year with ALTAREQ and Caughtredhanded, the first-named a Frankel colt who looks the part on pedigree and may be the one to beat. Spy Kingdom is another who looks interesting as a son of Kitten's Joy and with Oisin Murphy in the saddle, as do Sea The Stars colt Muhaajim and perhaps Hard Endeavor for Jane Chapple-Hyam.

NO.	HORSE NAME	RACE COMMENT
1	ALNAYAZEK	Dam won twice at 1m 2f.
2	ALTAREQ	Full brother to Al Asifah, won twice at 1m 2f.
3	BONDI	Dam unraced.
4	CAUGHTREDHANDED	Half-brother to Sucellus, won four times between 7f and 1m 2f.
5	COSMO GOODSPEED	Dam won at 1m.
6	DUST COVER	Dam a lightly raced maiden.
7	HARD ENDEAVOR	Half-brother to Kingstown, won five times between 1m and 1m 4f.
8	HIGH STOCK	Half-brother to Imperial Cult, won twice at 1m 2f and 1m 4f.
9	HINCHINBROOKE	Dam won twice at 6f including a Group 3 race.

10	MUHAAJIM	Half-brother to Latest Generation, won at 1m.
11	PERSIAN VISION	Half-brother to Visreyma, won twice at 7f and 1m 3f.
12	PRANKSTER	Half-brother to Canal Rocks, won on the flat at 1m and over hurdles at 2m.
13	SEVENTY	Dam won at 7f.
14	SHOWYOUTHEROPES	Dam won at 1m.
15	SPY KINGDOM	Dam a lightly raced maiden.

**RACE 3:      BLANDFORD BLOODSTOCK ABERNANT STAKES (GROUP 3) (CLASS 1) (3YO PLUS)**

**ROMANTIC STYLE - ROYAL ZABEEL - RUN TO FREEDOM**

Race Preview: Run To Freedom is one to consider having competed at the top level in 2023 but with just the one start since, when well beaten in this race last year, he may be best watched. Royal Zabeel is tempting with three wins from his last four starts on the all-weather, but ROMANTIC STYLE looks the one to beat. After failing to see out the mile in the Cape Verdi at Meydan, she made amends with an easy victory there over this trip and a repeat of that performance might be all she needs.

NO.	HORSE NAME	RACE COMMENT
1	APOLLO ONE	Winner of five races from 6f to 7f on good to firm and soft ground and on the all-weather. A winner at 17-2 in the Group 3 John Guest Racing Bengough Stakes at Ascot over 6f (soft) on his latest outing in October last year, beating Jarraaf by 1l.
2	GRAND GREY	Placed in three of seven starts. Beaten 8l behind Makarova at 20-1 when 11th of 16 on his latest outing in the Group 1 Prix de l'Abbaye de Longchamp Longines at ParisLongchamp over 5f (soft) in October last year. Having his first run for a new stable today.
3	LETHAL LEVI	Has won nine races from 6f to 7f on ground varying from good to firm to good to soft. A winner at 20-1 at Ayr over 6f (good to firm) on his latest outing in September last year, beating Silky Wilkie by 3l.
4	ROYAL ZABEEL	He has won four times from 6f to 7f on good ground and on the all-weather. A winner at 11-2 at Wolverhampton over 7f on his latest outing last month, beating Witch Hunter by 3/4l.
5	RUN TO FREEDOM	Winner of six races from 6f to 7f on good to firm and good ground and on the all-weather. Beaten 6l behind Washington Heights at 10-1 when 11th of 14 on his latest outing over this course and distance (good) in April last year.
6	SAJIR	He has won four times from 5f to 7f on good to soft ground and on the all-weather. Won on his latest outing when 8-11fav at Chantilly over 6f last month, beating Vicious Harry by 1 3/4l.

7	ROMANTIC STYLE	She has won four times from 6f to 7f on good and heavy ground. A winner at Meydan over 6f (good) in January, beating Haasim by 2 1/2l.
---	----------------	--

**RACE 4:      BET365 CRAVEN STAKES (GROUP 3) (CLASS 1) (3YO ONLY)**

**AOMORI CITY - WIMBLEDON HAWKEYE - OPERA BALLO**

Race Preview: Charlie Appleby has taken two of the last four renewals of this contest and has a pair of contenders this time around, with William Buick opting for AOMORI CITY instead of the unbeaten Opera Ballo. The son of Oasis Dream produced the best effort of his career when signing off his campaign with third in the Juvenile Turf at Del Mar in November. Provided he has wintered well, it would be no surprise to see him score. Wimbledon Hawkeye took the Royal Lodge over C&D last year and is another to consider.

NO.	HORSE NAME	RACE COMMENT
1	AOMORI CITY	Successful at 6f and 7f on good ground. Third of 12 behind Henri Matisse beaten 3/4l at 19-2 on his latest outing in the Group 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf - Grade 1 at Del Mar over 1m (good) in November last year.
2	BENEVENTO	Successful at 5f and 7f on good ground. Finished 3l behind Make You Smile when fourth of 8 at 11-4 on his latest outing in the Group 3 BetVictor Horris Hill Stakes at Newbury over 7f (heavy) in October last year.
3	FIELD OF GOLD	Successful twice at 7f on good ground. Finished 2 1/4l behind Camille Pissarro when fourth of 9 at 7-2 on his latest outing in the Group 1 Qatar Prix Jean-Luc Lagardere at ParisLongchamp over 7f (soft) in October last year.
4	MATAURI BAY	A winner at 7f on good to firm ground. Finished 17l behind Twain when last of 6 at 5-1 on his latest outing in the Group 1 Criterium International at Saint-Cloud over 1m (heavy) in October last year.
5	NEW CENTURY	He has won three times from 7f to 1m on good to firm and good ground. Finished 2l behind Henri Matisse when fourth of 12 at 9-2 on his latest outing in the Group 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf - Grade 1 at Del Mar over 1m (good) in November last year.
6	OPERA BALLO	Successful twice at 1m on the all-weather. Won on his latest outing when 11-10fav at Kempton over 1m in February, beating Hott Shott by 4l.
7	THE WACO KID	Successful at 6f and 7f on good to firm and soft ground. Beaten 8l behind Henri Matisse at 28-1 when 11th of 12 on his latest outing in the Group 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf - Grade 1 at Del Mar over 1m (good) in November last year.
8	THE WATCHER	Successful at 6f and 7f on the all-weather. Won on his latest outing when 1-5fav at Wolverhampton over 7f in February, beating Kamekist by 5l.
9	WIMBLEDON HAWKEYE	Successful at 7f and 1m on soft ground and on the all-weather. Third of 8 behind Hotazhell beaten 5l at 3-1 on his latest outing in the Group 1 William Hill Futurity Trophy Stakes at Doncaster over 1m (soft) in October last year.