

# Globeform's Royal Ascot Premier Service

June 19 - 23, 2018



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**DAY THREE**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 21**

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## THURSDAY

**3:05 THE HAMPTON COURT STAKES**, run over 1 ¼ miles, has drawn a field of 16 runners, with one of Godolphin's contenders, **KEY VICTORY**, at the head of the betting market. He is a talented, lightly raced colt open to improvement, but it's still a bit hard to see why he should be shorter in the betting than Aidan O'Brien's only runner here, **HUNTING HORN**, who finished in front of him when they ran sixth and eighth in the Prix du Jockey Club at Chantilly – where Hunting Horn raced too freely, saw far too much daylight while racing wide near the lead, and appeared to find the 10.5-furlong trip a little too far for his liking. The ground was soft. Key Victory had a ground saving trip in the pack and ran on towards the end of the classic, won by Study Of Man. Hunting Horn was beaten 2 ½ lengths by the winner. This 'Derby' was not as strong as the one we saw at Epsom, but three of the horses finishing between the winner at Hunting Horn had decent form going into the race. Intellogent (5<sup>th</sup>) had beaten Patascon (2<sup>nd</sup>) by a head in G3, while Louis d'Or (3<sup>rd</sup>) had run third to the smart miler Wootton in the Prix de Fontainebleau in April. Hey Gaman, who was 7<sup>th</sup> in the Jockey Club, was coming off a second in the French 2,000 Guineas (head behind Olmedo), while Rostropovich (9<sup>th</sup>, Jockey Club) was an impressive prep winner at Chester. The French Derby form wasn't all bad, that's for sure, and a horse that might have been in the top three with a better run / over shorter must have a great chance as he drops in class and trip in the Hampton Court.

Hunting Horn had previously been third to Sevens Star in the Sandown Classic Trial (where he went down by 1 ¼ lengths after being short of room close home) and third in the Chester Vase over 12.5 furlongs (not at all his trip), beaten 3 ½ lengths by the classy colt Young Rascal. Eventual Derby runner-up Dee Ex Bee was second in the Chester Vase.

So, in Hunting Horn we have an experienced colt with solid form, probably a bit better than what he has been able to show to date, and set to run over what appears to be his optimum trip. **Odds of 13-2** (Coral and Ladbrokes) looks generous. Ryan Moore is a big plus.

### Prix du Jockey Club on Youtube

Hunting Horn in dark blue, wide, near the speed, with a white blaze

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RSFwhMj786c>

**KEY VICTORY** also comes into the reckoning. What he was up against at Chantilly was lack of experience, and he is just the type to keep on improving. He looked potentially smart winning comfortably by a length at Newmarket last autumn, beating Qayser, who went on to win his next three races. Key Victory opened his 2018 campaign with a Listed win in May, again at Newmarket, beating Old Persian, who won a similar contest (albeit against two rivals only) at the same venue next time out. **5-1** makes Key Victory an alternative each-way bet.

**Relying on the Prix de Jockey Club** as the best 'prep' for the Hampton Court, I'm taking these two colts against the field, with Hunting Horn the main bet. Each-way bets on both plus a small reversed (boxed) exacta recommended

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**4:20 THE GOLD CUP** has a clear favourite in **ORDER OF ST. GEORGE**, who won this race in 2016 and was just pipped by Big Orange last year. He has looked in fine fettle with two wins in Ireland this spring, and it's hard to oppose the Ballydoyle stayer, who was even classy enough to finish third behind stable companions Found and Highland Reel in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe back in 2016.

We can't expect to get much of a price about him though, and there are two legitimate dangers; John Gosden's young improver **STRADIVARIUS** and the French trained veteran stayer **VAZIRABAD**, so backing Order Of St. George at short odds is not a good idea. What does make sense, on the other hand, is to combine these three horses in exactas. They really do stand out from the rest and there must be a good chance that they run 1-2-3. But let's not get greedy, let's just make an exacta plan in an attempt at grinding out a profit from this highly enjoyable 2 ½-mile event.

## RECOMMENDED BETS

### 3:05 HAMPTON COURT STAKES

**£25 E/W:** HUNTING HORN 13-2 / Ladbrokes

**£10 E/W:** KEY VICTORY 5-1 / Blacktype bookmakers

**£10 REVERSED (BOXED) EXACTA:** HUNTING HORN & KEY VICTORY

### 4:20 GOLD CUP

**6 x £20 EXACTAS (COMBINED)**

2 ORDER OF ST. GEORGE, 6 VAZIRABAD, 9 STRADIVARIUS

**Plus 2 x £20 straight Exactas:**

1<sup>st</sup>... 2 ORDER OF ST. GEORGE

2<sup>nd</sup>... 6 VAZIRABAD and 9 STRADIVARIUS

**Total stakes Thursday: £250**

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*Good luck to us!*

*Geir Stabell*